



THE INDEPENDENT

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WEATHER: Showers

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THE TABLOID

HOWARD STERN BARES ALL

COMMENT PAGE 21

CANNABIS FOR KIDS: IS MIRIAM STOPPARD RIGHT?

INSIDE THE TABLOID

EDUCATION+ UNIVERSITY PAY: HOW LOW CAN IT GO?

THE TABLOID: FILM

BRAD PITT IN THE DEVIL'S OWN

Very strange bedfellows

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

Kenneth Clarke and John Redwood yesterday joined forces against William Hague, the Tories' young pretender. The Clarke-Redwood alliance ahead of today's final knock-out bout in the leadership contest was quickly denounced as a "marriage from hell".

After a bizarre night and morning of barter, Mr Redwood decided it was time to end his self-imposed exile in the political wilderness and accept the offer of the job which Mr Clarke holds - Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.

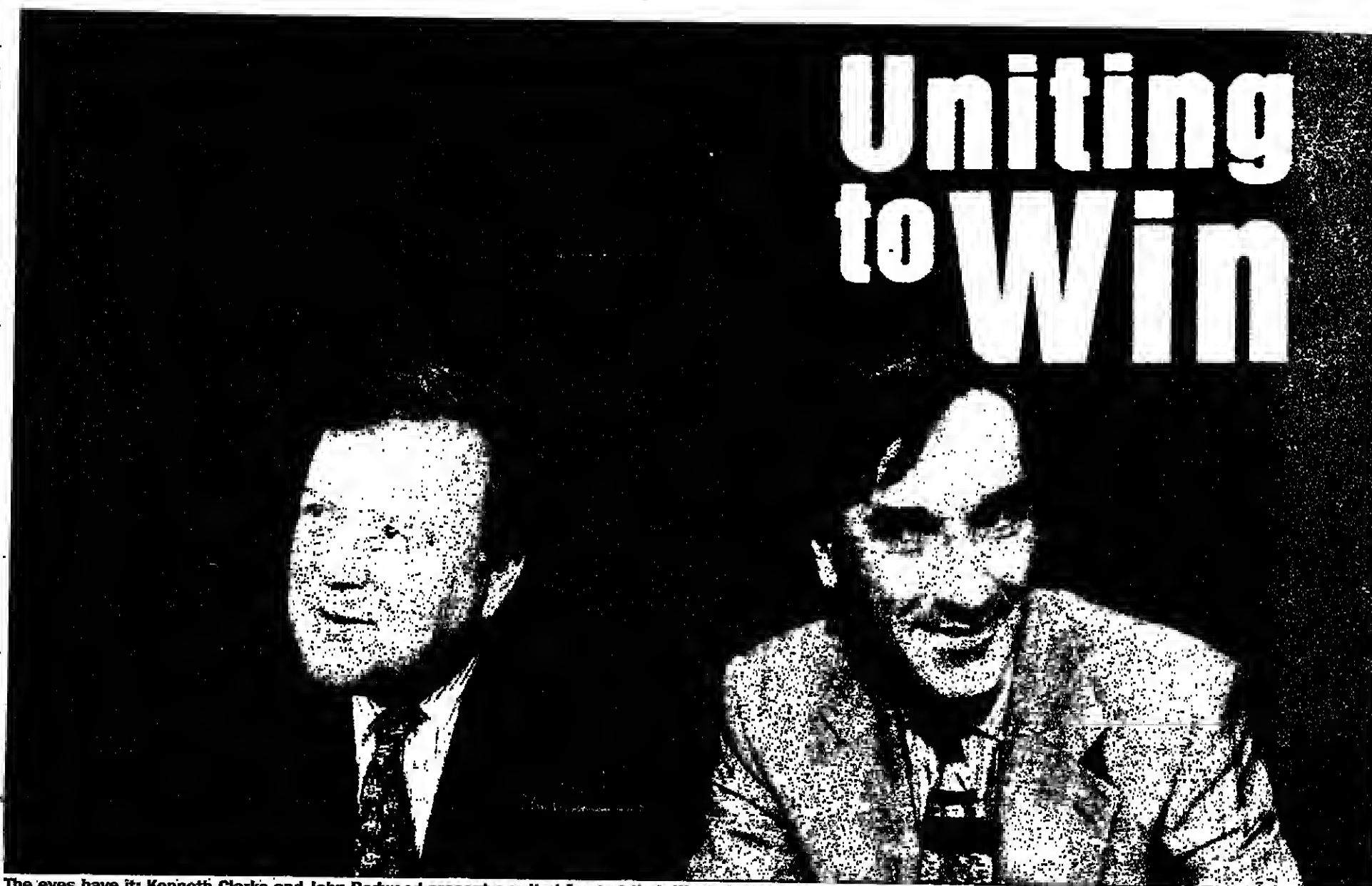
However, even as Mr Clarke and Mr Redwood were announcing their deal, Baroness Thatcher was finally endorsing Mr Hague's campaign on the apparent grounds that any opponent of Mr Clarke's was a friend of her's.

The cross-currents were running so strongly in the party last night that either man could yet emerge as victor when the final result is announced after 5pm in Commons Committee Room 14 today. Clarke campaigners, though, said they were confident of a double-figure majority.

Tuesday's preliminary bout gave Mr Redwood 38 votes and those will be redistributed today. On the face of it, Mr Clarke needs 19 of them, in addition to Tuesday's 64, to guarantee him 83 votes and the crown. On the same basis, Mr Hague, who won 62 votes on Tuesday, needs 21 of the Redwood votes to guarantee his place as new leader.

As always in politics, there are complicating factors. If some MPs abstain today, the winner would need fewer than 83 votes to win. There was Westminster speculation last night that some of the Hague votes were "slipping" to Clarke, as Tory MPs searched for a winner with momentum - in which case Mr Hague would need to compensate for any losses.

Yesterday was a day of high drama. It began at 10.30am, with Mr Redwood appearing on



The eyes have it: Kenneth Clarke and John Redwood present a united front at their Westminster press conference yesterday

Uniting to Win



'It's incredible ... it will not stand the test of time, it is a marriage made in hell'
Steve Norris

wood were those showing such contempt for Mr Hague's line on the single currency that they could not possibly serve in his frontbench team.

Mr Redwood said that if he had agreed to serve under Mr Hague he would have had to eat his words. Mr Clarke said Mr Hague had put forward a single currency proposition "on which neither John nor I could conceivably agree and retain any credibility whatever."

The two men made vain appeals for Mr Hague to withdraw from the contest. But, buoyed up by the Thatcher blessing, Mr Hague later staged a triumphal procession in a Westminster restaurant, declaring his determination to fight on.

Leading article, page 19
Donald Macintyre, page 21

the steps of his political think tank, Conservative 2000, to announce the outline of his deal with Mr Clarke - that a Clarke shadow cabinet would be allowed a free vote on a European single currency.

Responding for the Hague camp, former minister Steve Norris told BBC Radio Five: "It is an incredible development, it

will not stand the test of time, it is a marriage made in hell." Other, more senior figures were more circumspect, but nonetheless damning. Michael Howard, who switched to Mr Hague after he had come bottom of the poll in the first round, said: "This is an instability pact."

"an incredible alliance of opposites". The deal had been agreed in outline at a meeting on Tuesday night. But Mr Redwood's supporters wanted the job of shadow Chancellor for their man. That was agreed, without hesitation, by Mr Clarke in a phone call yesterday morning.

At noon, Mr Clarke and Mr Redwood appeared with a gang of their supporters - only five from the Redwood camp - for a formal press conference in the same Church House hall that Mr Blair had used to deliver his first address to the Parliamentary Labour Party last month.

This is not an agreement that has been entered into for the next 24 hours. This agreement is for five years at least," Mr Clarke said.

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Charity doesn't begin at home anymore

Paul McCann

Britons could soon be walking around in German cast-offs if the Oxfam gets its way. The charity is planning to bring second-hand clothes from Germany to the UK to make up for a deficit in donations here, according to this week's *Marketing Week*.

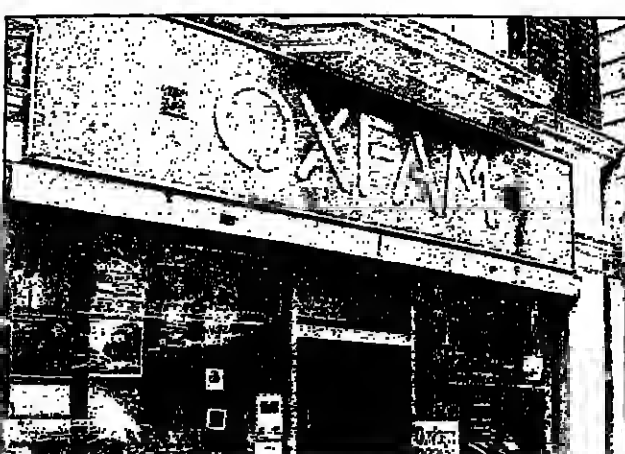
The charity confirmed yesterday that a spiralling demand for second-hand clothes and books by the booming charity-shop chains in the high street was forcing it to look overseas for its supplies.

Oxfam, which first set up high-street shops in the UK in 1948, is also planning to look for shops in out-of-town shopping centres - ironically silencing the complaints of estate agents and traders in many small towns where charity shops and discount chains are all that are left on the high street.

Ian Bray, Oxfam spokesman, said yesterday: "There is so much competition for donated goods now because the charity shops have just taken off."

"It is very much a British phenomenon. In Germany only commercial companies collect hand-me-down clothes and we see it as a way of finding more donated goods. We would favour Germany because we have a couple of shops there."

In the Nineties, the number of charity shops on the high street increased by two-thirds to



Overseas aid: A shortage of British second-hand clothes could see Oxfam importing stock from Germany

over 5,000 and their turnover has doubled to almost £300m a year, according to a report out this week by market research company Mintel.

Oxfam itself saw its sales in its 850 shops increase by 5 per cent last year to £55m, earning the charity a profit of £15m.

Oxfam considered looking overseas for its goods a few years ago but opted to increase the number of collections it made from homes using labelled plastic bags. "At first that boosted the number of clothes we were getting," said Mr Bray. "But now everyone is doing the same thing, everyone gets lots of those bags and the market is saturated."

Oxfam also increased the number of goods it received by setting up clothes and book banks, but supplies from these have hit a plateau.

The decimation of Britain's high streets by the car and out-of-town shopping centres is one factor that has led to the proliferation of charity shops paying lower rents and business rates but Oxfam is worried that it is being left behind by other retailers.

"We may have to move out of town," said Mr Bray. "We have to look at what the retail market is doing."

Oxfam is also beating off competition from other charity shops, with bookshops in university towns and gift shops in tourist centres.

Labour suspends MP in lobbying row

Christian Wolmar
Westminster Correspondent

Labour moved quickly yesterday to try to defuse a second sleaze row by suspending the party's former whip, Bob Wareing, over allegations that he has breached the parliamentary rules on lobbying.

"Serious allegations" against Mr Wareing have been received by Labour's Chief Whip, Nick Brown, and he has referred what one MP called "a sad case" to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey.

Two years ago Mr Wareing, who is chairman of the all-party British-Yugoslav parliamentary group, was criticised by his party for holding talks with the Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, whose forces had been responsible for a programme of ethnic cleansing.

Yesterday, the Parliamentary Labour Party adopted a new rule to allow suspensions in these cases as previously the party could only expel MPs who had transgressed the rules but could not take any action until the case had been proved.

The party appears to have learnt the lesson of the cash-for-questions affair during which the leadership of the Conservative Party was powerless to take action against MPs who appeared to have broken the rules but had not gone through the



Bob Wareing: Suspended over 'serious allegations'

procedure. While Labour is deeply embarrassed at the opening of a second sleaze row after only seven weeks in office, the leadership wants to show that it is prepared to take firm action against misbehaving MPs in contrast to the Conservatives.

Next week, Labour's ruling National Executive is expected to decide to remove the right of the newly-elected MP for Glasgow Govan, Mohammad Sarwar to hold office in the party over allegations that he offered bribes to rival parliamentary candidates and Mr Brown is expected to follow this by suspending the whip.

Mr Wareing, the MP for Liverpool West Derby, will retain his full salary while the allegations are investigated.

In a statement issued last night, Mr Wareing did not deny the allegations - which are thought to have come as a result of a complaint within the Labour party - and said he "welcomed" the Chief Whip's decision.

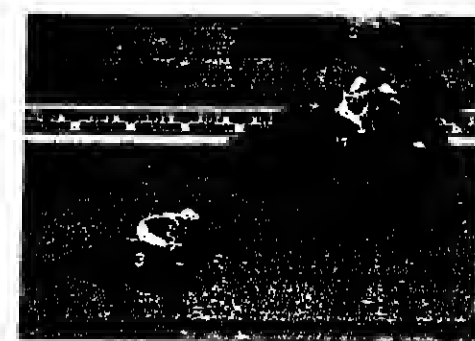
He added: "I recognise why the Chief Whip felt it necessary to exercise his newly acquired powers of suspension until such time as Sir Gordon Downey has made his decision."

He also regretted "any embarrassment which my actions may cause, my political colleagues, my constituency party and my constituents."

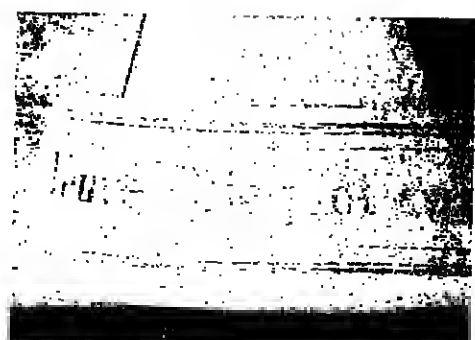
Mr Wareing, 66, a former lecturer, who holds Liverpool West Derby with a majority of almost 26,000, has been in Parliament since 1983 and was an opposition whip between 1987 and 1992. He has a longstanding interest in Eastern Europe and is vice-chairman of the Russian Group as well as holding the chairman's post with the British-Yugoslav group.

In the last register of members' interest, Mr Wareing's only entry is an overseas visit to Germany paid for by German Television.

A Labour Party spokesman said last night: "This suspension is a result of serious allegations relating to the Register of Members' Interest."



WINNER BY A HEAD



WINNER BY A NECK

ROYAL ASCOT	17-20 June
2ND CROMWELL TEST MATCH v AUSTRALIA, LORD'S	19-23 June
WINDSOR TOWN CHAMPIONSHIP	23 June-3 July
PRINCE OF WALES CHURCHILL GOLF CUP, GOSWOLD PARK	25 June-30 July
HENLEY RUGBY REGATTA	7-8 July
HUNTON COURT PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW	9-13 July
HENLEY FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS	9-12 July
OLYMPIA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP	29 July-2 August
GATCHEME PARK HORSE TRAILS	2-4 August
CURLES WEEK	2-9 August



Pol Pot surrenders
Pol Pot, the man blamed for the deaths of more than two million people in the killing fields of Cambodia, has surrendered according to reports. Page 17

THE BROADSHEET
Business & City 22-24
Comment 19-21
Foreign News 12-17
Gazette 18
Home News 2-11

Leading Articles 19
Letters 19
Obituaries 18
Shares 25
Sport 27-32
Unit Trusts 26

THE TABLOID
Arts Reviews 19
Culture 23
Dilemmas 10
Features 8-9
Film 4-9

Games 22
Graduate Plus 11
Listings 20, 21
Management 14
TV & Radio 23, 24
Weather 22

Veve Clicquot
CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

news

significant shorts

Parents arrested in baby deaths inquiry

Police investigating the deaths of three babies during the past four years, have arrested three people, they revealed yesterday. The infants, aged 18 months, five weeks and six weeks, all belonged to the same extended family living in the Brighton area, Sussex police said. The mother and father of two of the babies have been arrested, along with another woman. They are all being held in custody at police stations in Brighton and Hove, East Sussex.

A spokesman for Sussex police said the deaths, which had occurred between 1994-97, had been dealt with individually and considered to be "natural". "After further information the circumstances are now being re-examined by the police with the assistance of Home Office and paediatric pathologists," he said.

New role for technology colleges

Specialist schools, set up by the previous government, will have a new role in future, it was announced yesterday. Estelle Morris, a school standards minister, said she hoped that specialist schools such as technology and language colleges could be used to revitalise the inner cities. Ministers also want the benefits of such schools to be shared by all schools in a neighbourhood.

Ms Morris announced that another 21 schools had successfully applied to become technology or language colleges, bringing the total to 252. The schools have to raise £100,000 in sponsorship from business which is matched by the Government which also provides an extra £100 per pupil for three years.

Judith Judd

Rail commuters face further chaos

There was little prospect of an early settlement of the rail dispute which will today cause the seventh day of disruption on a key London commuter network. A spokesman for Connex South Central, which operates trains from Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire into London Bridge and Victoria, said no talks were planned with Aslef, the train drivers' union, and it was expected that once more some 300 trains would be cancelled. Drivers are banning overtime and rest day working in protest at management's pay and productivity proposals.

Barrie Clement

Actress champions rural cause

The actress Prunella Scales is to take over from the broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby as president of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, a leading environmental pressure group.

Ms Scales (left), who grew up in the countryside, said yesterday: "We live on a small island and it's too easy to spoil it in so many ways - through noise or traffic, development or roadside clutter."

Nicholas Schoon

White rhino trade blocked

A move towards opening a legal trade in products from the white rhino was narrowly defeated at the CITES treaty talks in Zimbabwe yesterday. The proposal from South Africa only just failed to win the necessary two-thirds majority at the meeting on the trade in endangered species. A move to impose international controls on the trade in big leaf mahogany was also narrowly defeated. Nations did agree, however, on starting to impose controls on the trade in caviar because the Caspian Sea sturgeon is being seriously overfished.

Securicor custodial services

In Jo Brand's column on 14 June there was an item about the inquest of a man who died while in Securicor's care. We wish to make it clear that the inquest has not reached a verdict, and so the facts of what happened have not yet been established. Securicor has pointed out that all its uniformed staff have to undergo training before they are accredited by the Home Office as Prisoner Custody Officers. We are happy to clarify the position.

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people



Diana, Princess of Wales: Meeting the great and the wise on US visit (Photograph: PA)

A Bronx tale: Diana and the ultimate photo opportunity

A Diana, Princess of Wales, continued her visit to the United States yesterday, her schedule looking more and more like a tour of the great and the wise of the world's women.

And we are not talking about her meetings either with Barbara Walters, the ABC TV anchor-cum-actress, on Monday night, or her joint pitch in Washington on Tuesday for a ban on landmines with Elizabeth Dole, wife of the defeated presidential candidate Bob Dole.

More remarkable were her appointments, both kept strictly private, in the course of yesterday. It began with a visit to the White House and an hour's discussion with the First Lady, Hillary Clinton, and ended in a different environment entirely - at the bedside of Mother Teresa in an unsalubrious corner of the Bronx district in New York.

Officially, Mother Teresa (whose home is normally

Calcutta) is in the Bronx to offer spiritual assistance to the large numbers of poor and dejected in the borough. Seriously ill, however, the world's most revered nun is believed to be resting at a clinic run by her order, the Missionaries of Charity.

"She will be looking forward to Princess Diana's visit," remarked Kathryn Spink, the author of an authorised biography of the 36-year-old. "She always welcomes Christ in everyone."

Any among the snapping paparazzi, meanwhile, who were not straining for that priceless shot of Mother Teresa and Diana together, may have been a couple of miles south at the US headquarters of Christie's auction house, where a first preview was being held yesterday of the 79 of the Princess's dresses that will go under the hammer in a charity sale next Wednesday.

David Usborne, New York

Bell leaves church in feud with vicar

Martin Bell, the independent MP, has walked out of his local church over a feud with the vicar, after calling him "an unreconstructed Hamiltonian".

The distinguished war correspondent, who trolled Neil Hamilton in the former Conservative stronghold of Tatton, Cheshire, was angered by comments made by Reverend Derek Mills (right) in the parish magazine.

But his decision to worship elsewhere brought him face to face with the Hamiltons when they were all invited to share tea and buns after the service at Mr Bell's new chosen church in Mobberley. Christine Hamilton, who said she had avoided the new MP, said: "It wasn't the least embarrassing at least not for us."

Mr Bell decided to change his place of worship after seeing an open letter in the June issue of the parish magazine.

Rev Mills lamented the conduct of the General Election campaign, saying: "Wisdom in the constituency has not been increased. Do you think that when all the asses bray you get wisdom?"

Mr Bell, who moved into a rented cottage in Great Budworth, near Northwich, three weeks ago, had attended Sunday services at



Rev Mills' church, St Mary and All Saints. "I have been to the church twice and the last time I went I was handed a copy of the newsletter as I walked out," he said.

"I read it and thought: 'I can't go back in there'. I don't think he wanted me in his church anyway."

But the MP insisted there were no hard feelings: "Mr Mills is entitled to his political opinions. He came to one of my meetings and he was quite obviously a Tory."

Mr Mills said his article was not "anti-Bell" - it was more about sympathy for Neil Hamilton.

Mr Hamilton said he was grateful to the vicar for his "expressions of Christian concern" but said of Mr Bell: "It seems that the ego has landed in Great Budworth and there are bats in the belfry."

Kate Watson-Smyth

Brickie's widow attacks sentences

The tearful widow of a British bricklayer killed on a German building site yesterday condemned as too lenient the sentences passed on two construction bosses who caused his death, after a German court upheld her private prosecution.

Len Stacey, 49, died instantly after falling from the third storey of an apartment block he was helping to build in the former East Germany in 1994.

A British sub-contractor, David Carter, was given a five-month suspended prison sentence and fined £2,825, and the director of a German construction firm was fined £4,950, after the court found them responsible for Mr Stacey's death.

An industrial safety inspector told the court that scaffolding and safety rails were absolutely necessary at the site, and that the two defendants, as experienced businessmen, would certainly have known they were needed.

He said: "In my long experience, I have never seen conditions like those on the building site."

Both Carter and a director of German contractors ABN were found guilty of negligent manslaughter.

The case was the first involving a foreign worker killed on a German site to reach the courts and will set a precedent which may lead to a flood of prosecutions.

briefing

POPULATION

Over-60s set to double in number by 2050

The century of the superannuated is approaching, with scientists expecting the size of the world's over-60s population to more than double. A new forecast published yesterday casts doubt on claims by some experts that the global population will double to 12 billion in the next century.

It suggests that today's 5.8 billion population will increase to 7.9 billion in 2020, rising to 10 billion in 2050. But the proportion of over-60s is predicted to soar, doubling from 9.5 per cent to 20 per cent in 2050 and increasing further to 27 per cent by 2100.

Wolfgang Lutz and colleagues from the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis in Laxenburg, Austria, believe that ageing will replace population growth as a focus for public, political and scientific concern. The researchers based their results on an analysis of trends in fertility, mortality and migration.

One of the key elements was a global trend towards low fertility, even in countries of traditionally high birth rate.

At the other end of the equation there was uncertainty about how much longer people will live, with some experts believing the human race to be already close to the biological limit of life expectancy.

BROADCASTING

How loud is your advert?

Television channels are footing the bill for new technology to prove that advertisements really are louder than programmes. For more than 35 years viewers have complained about the irritating plays of advertisers, who use cunning audio trickery to grab attention.

Although TV advertisements are not higher in volume than programmes, they appear louder because of the way the sound is compressed and filtered.

Engineers began tackling the problem after a Broadcast Audience Research Board survey of 3,000 viewers in 1993 found that "substantial proportions" thought commercials were too loud.

Two years ago, John Emmett, research and development manager of Pearson Television, began to develop a loudness meter. His final design has already been ordered by Channel 4, and both the BBC and ITV have begun evaluating the technology. New Scientist magazine reported yesterday.



EMPLOYMENT

Going gets tough for graduates

Two out of three of last year's graduates failed to find a job in their chosen career after encountering "extreme competition" for work. A survey conducted by recruitment specialists Reed Graduates also found that most felt insecure in their first job and believed that a degree did not guarantee employment.

Tom Lovell, manager of Reed Graduates, said that most of the 1,100 respondents - some of them final year students and others recent graduates - were "excited" by their prospects as the country came out of recession, but they were realistic to be concerned about insecurity, the degree of competition and the need to prove themselves.

Barrie Clement

TECHNOLOGY

DNA fingerprint within a fingerprint

Forensic scientists have discovered how to find a genetic fingerprint in a fingerprint, providing a vital new source of criminal evidence. Minute traces of DNA, traceable to specific individuals, have been taken from objects touched by hands by researchers in Australia.

The technique developed at the Victoria Police forensic science centre not only detects the last person to handle an object, but earlier ones too. In fact, the strongest profile was not always found to be that of the last user.

The researchers carried out experiments that involved passing around a variety of objects including mugs, leather briefcases, pens, car keys and telephones.

They found that a person can be identified from as little as 1.1 billionths of a gram of deposited genetic material.

Writing in the science journal Nature, the researchers said: "Our methods have already been used at our laboratory to provide evidence in attempted murder, rape, armed robbery, extortion and drug-trafficking cases."

MEDICINE

Warning on suicidal patients

Doctors are warned today against trying to save the lives of overdose patients, who want to die. People who attempt suicide must not be helped, unless they have given permission for efforts to save them to go ahead, the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin said.

Every year, around 100,000 patients arrive at hospital after deliberately harming themselves, but only those who are unconscious on admission can automatically be treated for poisoning, says the Bulletin, a British-style guide for doctors, published by the Consumers' Association.

Dr Joe Collier, the editor, said the ethical requirement on doctors to respect the sanctity of life had altered in the last 10 years, and greater weight was now given to the need for the patient to consent to treatment. By law, the patient's right to decide supersedes the sanctity of life and any doctor acting without consent risks being charged with trespass and battery.

Jeremy Laurance

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مكتبة من الأناضول

Jail for man in bizarre antiquities plot



James Mellor

A leading art dealer, who smuggled priceless Egyptian artefacts into Britain by disguising them as cheap trinkets, was yesterday jailed for six years.

In a landmark case before a British court, Jonathan Tokeley-Parry, 46, of Winkleigh, Barnstaple, in Devon was found guilty on two counts, but was cleared of a third offence at Knightsbridge Crown Court.

Dressed in an open-necked shirt and blue jacket, he looked up and down at ceiling and floor as he was sentenced to six years for each of the handling charges and a further eight months for obtaining a passport by decep-

tion, each of the sentences to run concurrently.

The case was the third in which Tokeley-Parry had been involved this year. In February a trial was scrapped after a bizarre sequence of events in which Tokeley-Parry was rushed to hospital with a suspected heart attack, only to be diagnosed as suffering from mental exhaustion. He later transferred himself to a psychiatric unit in Devon where he tried to commit suicide by swallowing hemlock.

Just days later Tokeley-Parry was convicted by an Egyptian court in his absence and sentenced to 15 years hard labour. At the same trial, the

star prosecution witness, Mark Perry, was sentenced to 10 years hard labour if he ever set foot again in Egypt while several Egyptians involved in the smuggling ring were also found guilty.

After the jury returned their guilty verdict at the third trial, Judge Timothy Pontius, sentencing, said: "These two offences reflect dishonesty on a large, elaborate and sophisticated scale. You have deliberately prostituted your talent for wholly selfish reasons."

The dealer, a Cambridge University philosophy graduate, was snared by Operation Bullrush, an investigation into the illegal smuggling of antiquities

which experts believe is worth £3bn each year, second only in value to drug smuggling.

Officers from Scotland Yard's arts and antiques squad, together with Egyptologists, discovered that Tokeley-Parry had masterminded a number of trips to Egypt when they raided his home in 1994.

Between June 1992 and December 1993 he had organised seven trips after recruiting Perry, 30, an odd-job man, as his £500-per-trip courier.

Police had discovered his scheme when an expert in the British Museum's Egyptology department recognised the pieces, which he knew by law should have been in Egypt.

Tokeley-Parry's ingenious plot involved painting the 5,000-year-old artefacts, a bronze falcon figure of the god Horus and pieces from the ancient tomb of the Pharaohs' hairdresser, Hetepka, at the necropolis of Saqqara near Cairo, with a transparent plastic solution.

Once covered the pieces were dipped in gold leaf, hieroglyphics were altered to give them the appearance of fakes, large pieces were cut up with a chainsaw and, in one case, the word Egypt was written on the antiquity.

Back in Britain, it was a simple operation to restore the works to their original and highly valuable appearance.

The court heard Tokeley-Parry's claim that he was "doing the Egyptians a favour" by removing their heritage even though Egypt had passed a law which labelled any goods not legally exported as stolen.

The trial has prompted calls for a re-examination of Britain's law in relation to the movement of antiquities. The eminent archaeologist, Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorpe, said: "The archaeological record of the world is being plundered and destroyed at an increasing rate. It has got to stop. British law has got to be strengthened so that it is an offence for antiquities stolen abroad to be openly sold in this country."



Bronze Horus: One of the artefacts brought into Britain

Alarms sound for British Jewry as the young abandon the flock

Clare Garner

The future for Britain's Jews does not look bright. Unless rabbis start welcoming non-Jewish partners, their fears of Anglo-Jewry vanishing within two generations could be fulfilled.

A report published next week reveals that more than two-thirds of young unmarried Jewish adults have had a relationship with a non-Jewish partner and more than one-third favours intermarriage. More than half said Jewish partners were hard to find.

More than half of the respondents believe that rabbis should be more helpful in welcoming non-Jewish partners into the community; sixty-eight per cent agreed with the statement: "The people who run synagogues sometimes make others feel like outsiders."

Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain is a rare exception. He was so frustrated by the attitude that Jews who marry non-Jews were "doing Hitler's work for him" that he holds seminars for interfaith couples at Maidenhead Synagogue, in Berkshire.

"We already have a crisis of assimilation, loss of numbers and low birth rate," he said yesterday. "If we carry on this policy of ostracising inter-faith couples then we're just going to cut off 50 per cent of our community and it's not going to achieve anything."

"Something like 44 per cent of Jews are marrying out of the faith. It is almost inevitable that mixed marriages will increase as tolerance increases in society. In one way it's a wonderful compliment to the way society is going but the flip side is that there is a danger of loss of identity."

Dr Romain still believes that same-faith marriages are best. "Marriage itself is pretty explosive. When you've got mixed faith it's even more of a minefield. Even though a lot of people do not consider themselves religious, they often underestimate how much they are affected by religious culture - whether to baptise, circumcise, neither or both."

Of the 193 unmarried adults aged 22-39 who were surveyed, only 15 per cent strongly agree that a Jew should marry a Jew, 25 per cent agree, 24 per cent are



Paulo Nadanovsky, a Brazilian Jew, his Catholic wife Silvia and their baby Julia. 'It's something my parents live with but are unhappy about', he says

Photograph: Andrew Burman

Keepers of the faith?

- 23 per cent were actively seeking a partner at the time of the survey.
- 68 per cent had been in a relationship with a non-Jewish person.
- 56 per cent felt rabbis should be more helpful in welcoming non-Jewish partners into the community.
- 24 per cent consider belief in God central to being Jewish.
- 12 per cent go to synagogue weekly, 7 per cent once a month and 30 per cent never attend.
- 38 per cent have Jewish friends.
- 32 per cent have few or no Jewish friends.

unsure, 26 per cent disagree and 10 per cent disagree strongly.

Despite the preponderance of mixed marriages, 86 per cent felt that it was important for Jews to survive as a people, 65 per cent felt there was an unbreakable bond uniting Jews all over the world and 83 per cent felt Jewish "inside".

Thirty-four per cent of those surveyed regarded themselves as "Non-practising" (secular) Jews, 27 per cent were "Just Jewish", 9 per cent were Progressive, 24 per cent were Traditional and 6 per cent were "Strictly Orthodox". Although most value their Jewish identity, only 24 per cent

consider that belief in God central to being Jewish.

The picture painted in the report, published by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research in association with the Joint Israel Appeal/Jewish Community, rings true for Dr Paulo Nadanovsky, 34. He married "out" despite a strong Jewish upbringing. "I had my bar mitzvah, I had my circumcision," he said. "I went to a Jewish school and my parents - who could speak Yiddish - made me go with them to the synagogue for every major festival when I was young. I was brought up to marry a Jew."

But, to his parent's distress, nine years ago, he married Silvia Brito, 33, a Catholic whom he met at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Last week they had their first child, Julia.

"It's something my mother lives with, but something she is unhappy with. My father is the same," he said. "If Silvia was Jewish, I think sometimes it would be easier."

The report found that Jewish awareness was not strictly connected to levels of observance although, for many, the two could not be separated.

Only 3 per cent said that although they were born Jewish they did not think of themselves as Jewish. A further 24 per cent were aware of their Jewishness but did not think about it often. Forty-eight per cent felt quite strongly Jewish, while 22 per cent felt extremely strongly about being Jewish.

Despite marrying out, Dr Nadanovsky, who lectures in Dentistry at University College London, says he feels "very much Jewish". It is a feeling he wants to imbue in Julia. "It's important to me that she feels what it is to be Jewish - not to reject that, and even to cherish some of the values."

'Cats' are cream for Lloyd Webber

David Osborne
New York

Andrew Lloyd Webber will be throwing an outdoor party this evening on 51st Street and Broadway in New York with a feline theme. Amid storms of confetti and a giant laser show, the British composer and impresario will be celebrating the very long life of perhaps his most famous musical, *Cats*.

With performance number 6,138 in Manhattan's Winter Gardens theatre tonight, *Cats* will officially dethrone *A Chorus Line*, as the longest-running show in Broadway history. Tonight's bash is expected to attract stars from stages the length of the Great White Way, as well as other New York dignitaries.

For some purists of the American theatre, the passing of the mantle to *Cats* is no cause for joy, however. Its opening in October 1982 marked the beginning of the conquest of Broadway by the



Broadway star: *Cats* pushes *A Chorus Line* off throne

Lloyd Webber machine that later gave it *Les Misérables*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Sunset Boulevard*.

"It is a dagger in heart, and a dagger in the heart of Broadway," commented Gary Stevens, who has co-authored a book about *A Chorus Line*.

And while it continues to draw tourists by the busload - so far an incredible 8.25 million people have seen it at the Win-

ter Gardens - the musical, based on the TS Eliot's verse collection, *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, is also a favourite target of jokes.

Being caty about *Cats* is almost as standard as ridiculing mother-in-laws. Thus, for instance, there is this line in a promotion for ABC television's successful *Politically Incorrect* talk-show: "New York... murders are down, burglaries are

down, but we still can't do a damn thing about *Cats*."

It is not even as if the critical reaction to the musical was terribly marvellous when it first opened in New York almost 15 years ago in October 1982. "As it happens, *Cats* does attempt a story," declared the *New York Times*, "and it also aspires to be the first British dance musical in the Broadway tradition. In neither effort does it succeed."

As Lord Lloyd-Webber will doubtless be reminding his guests tonight, however, the cat-stats are unanswerable. The show, whose apt slogan is "Now and Forever", has been the largest single generator of income and jobs on Broadway - it has employed 231 actors. With 42 different productions staged worldwide, it has drawn a global audience of 50 million.

Other things you should know: at the Winter Gardens alone, it has gone through 2,706 pounds of yak hair (for the cat wigs), 1.5 million pounds of dry ice and 9,958 G-springs.

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Rail firms to be ranked in league tables

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

The rail regulator is planning to introduce league tables for train companies which will rate operators on the accuracy and impartiality of their customer information.

The move comes after John Swift QC, the regulator, received the results of a survey his

office commissioned earlier this year which tested how well the new privatised network delivers passenger information. He said that the exercise showed that passengers had been sold the wrong tickets.

Mr Swift recounted his own personal experience as evidence of consumer's frustrations to a conference of rail industry executives.

"I wanted to go to York. I got two different quotes from the National Telephone Enquiry Service. I then went down to the station and got another price from the ticket office."

"It may be anecdotal but if this happens to me then it will be happening to others," said Mr Swift.

Earlier this year, his office sent hundreds of investigators

out to pose as passengers and identify the apparent failures of train operators to provide accurate and impartial information about fares.

More than 5,000 inquiries at booking offices and via passengers' phone lines were made by researchers to check how far sales staff provided information about alternative routes and ticket prices.

The results of Mr Swift's survey will be released in "weeks". The performance of operators were tested in eleven different "scenarios", where ticket clerks were asked for everything from simple cheap day returns to more complex advance fares.

"It should not come as any surprise to anybody that the railway is generally very good at

selling simple products," said Mr Swift. But the regulator said transactions involving a first-class ticket or an Apex ticket scored less well. "Much less well in the latter case."

Mr Swift, earlier this month, warned that he would fine operators or even alter their licences if companies failed to comply with his wishes.

He also highlighted the

"crazy" way that complaint figures were used by the industry.

"You get figures from the Central Rail Users Consultative Committee which say that complaints are down by a third. Then you get another set of figures from a regional committee which paints another picture," he said. The west coast main line receives more than 50,000 com-

plaints a year – but consultative committees report the figure to be in the hundreds.

Rail companies were surprised by the tough words from the regulator. Chris Tibbitts, a director of Virgin Rail, who chaired the conference, said that he "would work with the regulator to resolve any of the problems he brings to the public's attention."

Girl 'used as guinea pig in test of lethal heroin'

Michael Streeter

Two men gave a 16-year-old girl a large dose of pure heroin and then sat back and watched her die, a court was told yesterday. Lucy Burchell, a bright schoolgirl who fell into a life of cheap drugs and prostitution after watching *Band of Gold*, a television series about prostitutes, may have been used as a guinea pig to test the strength of the drug.

The prosecution claims that on the night of her death Lucy had gone to Birmingham looking for cannabis, but had instead been given the 80 per cent pure heroin at the flat of one of the defendants. The two men had allegedly then sat back and watched as she died on a bed in the rented house.

John Mitting QC, for the prosecution, told Birmingham Crown Court that he could only suggest motives as to why the pair gave Lucy the drug and then failed to get medical attention which could have saved her life.

Perhaps, he said, the heroin was intended to render her incapable of stopping them doing whatever they wanted to her, or to get her hooked on it, or else they "wanted to test the effects of administering that purity of heroin on her". Mr Mitting added: "Each of them consciously took the decision to not get help for her."

Tahir Khan, 27, of Salford, and Rungzab Khan, 25, of Hodge Hill, both in Birmingham, deny murder and the possession and supply of heroin. Tahir Khan

also denies unlawful possession of a firearm.

The court heard how Lucy lived a double life, taking drugs and working as a prostitute in Walsall, but also studying and achieving good grades at her GCSEs, although she died in August last year before the exam results were published.

Under cross-examination, a school friend said that when Lucy first told her of her life as a prostitute, she thought it was a joke. She also told the court of a "Life Plan" Lucy had written about her own future. In it, Lucy said she wanted "to smoke loads of drugs, more and more drugs as time went on."

Later, she revealed she had become a prostitute. "She told me she had thought about trying to do it after watching *Band of Gold*. She used to watch that a lot and thought it would be a good idea," said the friend.

Lucy was last seen near her home in Great Wyrley, near Cannock, Staffordshire, on 15 August last year. Her decomposed body was found five days later by two schoolboys dumped on wasteland behind a Birmingham nightclub. Police identified her after matching her clothing with a missing-person report filed by her parents.

She had been seen the previous night climbing into a red car which matched the description of Rungzab Khan's vehicle.

The men allegedly borrowed a van and, after wrapping her body in a blanket, drove to the wasteland where the body was found.

Ulster's terrible burden as victims of the IRA are laid to rest



A pall bearer fighting back tears yesterday at the funeral of David Johnston, one of the RUC constables murdered by the IRA. Angie, the officer's widow, was flanked by her sons Louie, seven, and Joshua, three, as she led mourners at the service at St Columba's Church in Lisburn, Co Antrim.

Reserve Constable Johnston and

his colleague, John Graham, were shot in Lurgan, Co Armagh, on Monday. A man arrested in connection with the killings remains in police custody.

A private service for the family and friends of PC Graham was held yesterday in his home town of Richhill, Co Armagh.

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, and members of the

force, joined friends and relatives of PC Johnston to hear the Presbyterian Moderator, Dr Sam Hutchinson, call on the Government to turn its back on attempts to bring the men of violence in from the cold.

He told the hundreds of mourners crammed into the church, and the many more standing outside: "With these murders Northern Ireland has

passed a watershed, one of those critical points after which things can never be the same again. These killings were a slap in the face for so many people of goodwill who were trying to promote understanding and take risks for peace."

He said there were many who had doubts from the beginning "whether much would be achieved by talking to Sinn Féin. But they were

honourable people who were willing to try, lest any chance for peace might be missed."

The policeman's sons paid their own tribute. Louie wrote: "I wish this had never happened to you. I wish it could be someone else. I am sorry that had happened to you. Greatest dad in the world. We love you."

Photograph Brian Little/PA

The cold drink can that warms the world

50cl drinks can, holds about the same as a 330ml can

Aerosol container within drinks can, containing HFC 134a refrigerant liquid.

Aerosol nozzle

Button on bottom of can

Can is held upside down to activate cooling system. When button on can bottom is pressed, aerosol valve opens and HFC 134a escapes into the atmosphere vapourising into a gas.

The escape of refrigerant cools the aerosol container, and the drink surrounding it. Within a few minutes the temperature drops from ambient to a few degrees above freezing.

Can is then opened at the top to consume chilled drink.

HFC 134a gas is more than 1,000 times as potent as carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, at trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere.

GRAPHIC: KRISTINA FERRIS

Britain tries to put cap on self-cooling drink can

Nicholas Schoon
Environment Correspondent

Britain will today urge European Union nations to unite in trying to find ways to ban a new, self-cooling drink can which could cause global warming.

The new design, being shown off by an American company at a trade exhibition in Singapore this week, chills the contents of a can at room temperature in less than two minutes, at the press of a button.

But in doing so it releases a gas which is over 1,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide – the principal man-made greenhouse gas – at trapping heat in the Earth's lower atmosphere. It is expected to go

into production later this year.

At a Council of Ministers meeting in Luxembourg today and tomorrow, Michael Meacher, the minister for the environment, will ask the European Commission and the other 14 environment ministers to look into what scope there is for banning imports and for outlawing production of the can.

The device, developed by the Joseph Company in California, is essentially an aerosol can inside a drinks can. When a button on the bottom of the can is pressed, the liquid inside the aerosol is vented into the air over the next 90 seconds. That lowers the temperature in the aerosol container, which then cools the liquid in the can.

The refrigerant liquid used in the aerosol is HFC 134a, one of the most powerful man-made greenhouse gases. It was developed as an ozone-friendly alternative to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). If the self-chilling cans won a significant market share the resulting emissions could speed up the rate of climate change and sea level rise.

Mr Meacher said the Government would try to block manufacture in Britain. "If we allow a gas which is so potent in producing global warming we are completely undermining international efforts to overcome this cause of global warming," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "The fact is, if the self-chilling cans ... cap-

tured, say 10 per cent of the UK market in [the year] 2000, we estimate that they would produce emissions equivalent to 43.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide – that is over half the projected reduction in UK carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000. So how can we be asking industry and individuals to act responsibly in taking every action they can to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and then allow one manufacturer to negate half of that effort?"

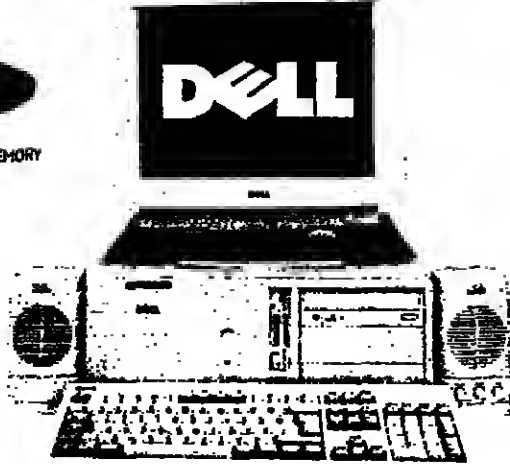
ICI is one of a few large chemical companies making HFC 134a for use in refrigeration and air conditioning. Yesterday it said that it would not supply the product for use in the chiller cans.

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Doctors separate Siamese twins

Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

Siamese twin girls were said to be making "good progress" last night in Great Ormond Street Hospital after a successful operation to separate them.

The six-and-a-half-hour operation on the two-month-old twins was carried out by one of the world's most experienced teams, including Lewis Spitz, professor of paediatric surgery.

He has previously operated on six sets of twins, of which seven children have survived.

The twins, born on 7 April, were joined at the chest and abdomen but doctors were hopeful they could separate them after it was discovered they only shared one organ - the liver.

The girls were transferred to Great Ormond Street at the beginning of last week and preparations for separation began, including a series of detailed X-ray investigations, to determine the extent of organ-sharing.

Although they had separate hearts, the pericardial sac, which surrounds the heart, was shared. Surgeons were able to reconstruct one pericardial sac but a prosthesis was needed for the second twin, as there was insufficient tissue to construct a separate sac around her heart.

With the liver there was a considerable area of fusion, the hospital said. It was divided using an ultrasonic dissector, tissue coagulation and medical glue to prevent bleeding. In fact, little blood was lost.

The procedure was carried out by Professor Spitz, Edward Kiely, consultant paediatric surgeon, and assisted by Alan Dickson, consultant paediatric surgeon from St Mary's Hospi-

tal, Manchester. Four anaesthetists and a team of doctors, nurses and operating department assistants were involved.

The operation began at 9am and finished at 3.30pm. The twins were then transferred to intensive care where their condition was described as "stable".

"These operations are always extremely complicated and despite a very detailed range of investigations beforehand it is impossible to determine exactly what to expect on the day of the operation," said Professor Spitz. "Today's operation, however, went very well."

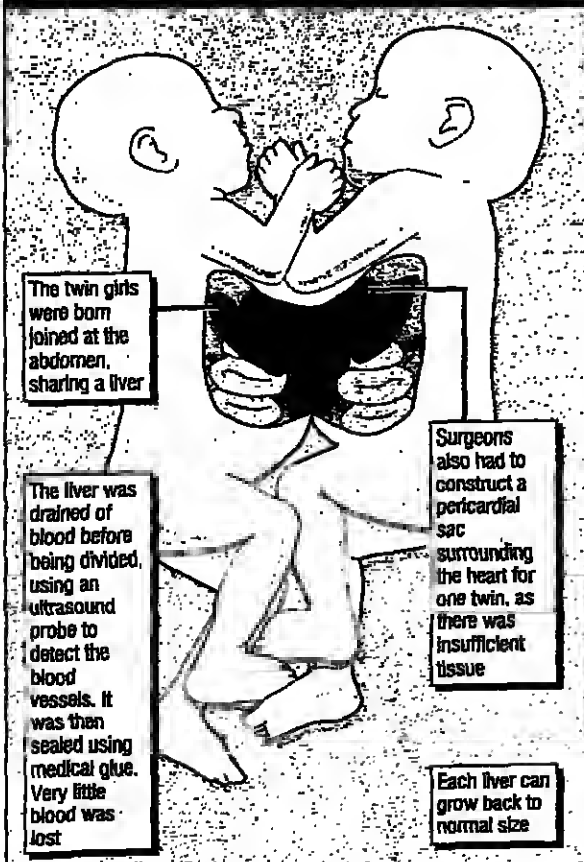
"It is too early to say how the twins will fare: they are very young and have undergone major surgery. They are making good progress so far. We are keeping a close eye on them in the intensive care unit and are doing all we can in the hope they will both pull through."

Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital is at the forefront of treating Siamese twins. Two years ago the team led by Professor Spitz and Mr Kiely operated on Siamese twins Chloe and Nicole Astbury. They were joined from the breast bone to the navel and underwent an operation to separate their bowels in the first few weeks of life.

Complete separation was planned for sometime in their first year but the girls died from a bowel disease, which spread rapidly to other organs at the age of six weeks.

The best known recent case of Siamese twins is that of Eilish and Katie Holton, who were born in Ireland in 1983, and whose lives to the age of three were the subject of an acclaimed documentary.

How the twins were divided



DAILY POEM

The Smithy-Dances

By Peter Redgrove

While the town belched its smoke out of the papermills
The Sunday smiths mimed with their fists
Hammerblows at hooves, while the smithwives
In grey skirts flapped their white aprons
Over their red skirts for fire.

For forge-smoke, I was born again to the smithy
In the instant I saw fire in the women's raiment,
Mum, sweating, and horse, sweating - though

There was neither smoke nor horse in the green smithy - still
The smith took the hoof in his lap and hammered the nail;
the horse.

As the man in horse-leather apron put down
The shod and smoking hoof, reared
And danced on its smoke, he pulled it back and the
Second hot shoe unrolled ammonia clouds of white
Quenched in the hoof. The smith
Called for white heat, the women danced
The blowing of coals red hot, white hot, the shoe
Cherry-red and the coals dazzling.

Yet in this paper city of papermills
(The abattoirs of the forest) there were no red-blooded forges
And no horses left, only the
Smithy-dances, on a Sunday, on the green, once in the year.

The Smithy-Dances comes from Peter Redgrove's latest collection, *Orchard End*. It is published by Stride Publications (£7.50), as is Redgrove's volume of short fiction and prose poetry, *What the Black Mirror Saw* (£8.50). Both books are available from Stride Publications at 11 Syvan Road, Exeter, Devon EX4 6EW.

Brewer's dray horses fall victim to road rage

Michael Streeter



Taking the slow road: Young's Brewery shire horses pulling a dray through Wandsworth High Street in south-west London Photograph: Brian Harris

The modern phenomenon of road rage has found another victim - the dray horse.

A leading brewery has decided to end daily deliveries to pubs by horse-drawn drays because of an increasing number of accidents involving motor vehicles, and complaints by irate drivers.

Young's Brewery, in Wandsworth, south-west London, from which horses have been used to take out beer for 400 years, says it is no longer fair on the animals to subject them to abuse and danger from motorists, even though they are more cost-effective than diesel-powered lorries.

Four draymen will be laid off at the end of the month but all 19 horses will be kept on for special deliveries.

A spokesman, Michael Hardman, said: "It is a very sad day and the end of an era." The move had been forced on the company by a combination of road rage, and bad driving, he said.

In one of the worst recent incidents a motorist held up near Clapham Junction removed one of the chocks holding the wheels of the dray and hit one of the horses on the rear with it.

The pair of animals galloped unchecked for a mile through heavy traffic into nearby Battersea before they were brought under control. The motorist who attacked the horse was later taken to court.



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A black and white photograph of a group of people, including a woman in the center and a man to her right, smiling and posing for a photo. The woman is wearing a light-colored jacket and a necklace. The man is wearing a dark suit and a tie. They are surrounded by other people in formal attire.

Leading lady: Baroness Thatcher giving her support to William Hague in his campaign for the Tory leadership yesterday

Photograph: Kieran Doherty

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Jobless plan attacked by charity

THE CREEP OF THE DAY

 George Stevenson (Lab; Stoke-on-Trent S) asked about the "rapidly eroded school buildings" and the previous Government's "ill-considered policy of chronic neglect" of education. Blair took the opportunity to expound on the "burden of social and economic problems" left to him by the Conservatives.

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Blair traves

Night as Eur

Amsterdam summit

Britain wins cautious approval on quotas

Nicholas Schoon
and Sarah Helm

Britain has been given cautious approval by the European Commission for measures which would restrict quota-hopping fishing boats, the Government said yesterday.

But fishermen's representatives and opposition parties were scornful of the deal, which sets the stage for further negotiations rather than bringing the controversy to an end.

The Government has abandoned its predecessor's approach of trying to get the EU's founding treaty amended to outlaw quota-hoppers - boats with foreign crews based in foreign ports which have won access to large chunks of Britain's North Sea fish quotas.

Instead, it is trying to establish that existing European law gives scope for restrictions which would ensure British fishing communities always benefited from UK fish quotas.

What Tony Blair has to show for his efforts is an exchange of letters between himself and Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, during the Amsterdam summit. The Prime Minister suggests in his letter that all fishing boats with access to UK quotas would have to land at least 50 per cent of their catches at British ports.

Alternatively, most of the crew might have to be living in Britain. A third option is that most of a boat's fishing trips would have to start from a UK port. Britain might apply a combination of these measures.

Mr Santer's reply says that Britain might be able to use the

restrictions Mr Blair suggests quite legally to ensure that UK fish quotas brought economic benefits to British communities.

The former fisheries minister, Tony Baldry, questioned whether the letters could be binding on anyone, while a spokesman for the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations said: "I think that the deal will leave access to important UK quotas in the hands of the quota-hoppers."

But Mr Blair told the Commons yesterday: "It discourages further quota-hoppers and it also means that those who are engaged in quota hopping are considerably impeded."

Details of the arrangement were not released in Amsterdam for fear of upsetting the Spanish delegates. Most of the quota-hopping boats are controlled from Spain.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said the letters now set the stage for months of negotiation between Britain, the Commission and other states.

Officials close to Emma Bonino, the fisheries commissioner, denied yesterday that the letters represented any new "deal". She was reported to be angry with Mr Santer for going along with the move.

And by playing up the idea of a secret Brussels-London deal, the Government had risked angering Spain, just as a harmonious solution had seemed possible next month.

But British officials reject Ms Bonino's criticisms, saying that the Spanish have shown no intention of compromising.

Josipa's weakness, page 12



Net loss: British fishermen say the Government's possible deal will leave access to UK quotas in the hands of quota-hoppers

Photograph: Tom Pilton

Blair's EU deal is a travesty, says Major

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

Britain has become a leading player in Europe for the first time in many years, the Prime Minister told the House of Commons yesterday. Tony Blair claimed that he had fully achieved his objectives at the Amsterdam summit because he led a united government with a clear sense of direction on the European Union.

But in his last Commons appearance as Conservative Party leader, John Major described the treaty as "not a triumph but a travesty". The only useful parts of the deal were struck under his own government, he said, and the rest could only lead to more control by Brussels.

Mr Blair said he had protected Britain's interests over immigration, foreign policy and defence, and had promoted changes "of real interest to the British people".

On frontier controls, the UK would retain control of immigration, asylum and visas while other countries had chosen different arrangements. There would be greater co-operation on police, crime and drugs,

and the European Court would have no authority to decide cases brought in the UK courts on those issues.

On jobs, Mr Blair said, the treaty would promote flexible labour markets, education and skills. It accepted Britain's belief that Europe's approach to employment and growth should be based on competitiveness, along with a new emphasis on getting people off welfare and into work.

It created the power to act against discrimination on grounds of sex, race, religion or disability.

The treaty would also prepare the institutions of Europe for enlargement, he added. In addition, there would be better co-ordination of foreign policy but Britain would retain its veto in the area.

A new action plan for the single market would lead to further opening of European markets to British companies. There would be a new emphasis on flexible labour markets and reform of wasteful policies in agriculture and elsewhere.

An agreement on quota-hopping would prove a major disincentive to foreign fishermen

using British-registered boats. On EMU, Mr Blair said he had made it clear that the entry conditions should be strictly applied.

"We are determined not to let Europe get bogged down again in minutiae. If we are to build a people's Europe, we must stay focused on the people's concerns. We made Britain's voice heard at Amsterdam because for the first time for many years Britain spoke as a united government with a clear direction for Europe," he said.

Mr Major said Britain had given in to moves towards a more integrated Europe on defence, on the role of the European Court of Justice in asylum and immigration cases and on jobs, he said.

The employment chapter of the treaty would create expectations which could not be met. The treaty would do nothing to meet the aim of a wider Europe which both he and Mr Blair shared, he added.

"This is both a botched and incomplete negotiation. It will certainly cause dismay in central and Eastern Europe," he said.

"What he has reported is not a triumph but a travesty."

Night of compromise as Europe flounders

As weary officials were yesterday still patching notes of a late-night deal into coherent text, the Amsterdam Treaty was already being written off as a failure and a fiasco.

To those who had hoped for another great leap forward for European integration, the final results of the two-year treaty negotiations must have seemed paltry, to say the least. Questions as to whether Europe was even fit for its next grand project of enlargement were being widely raised.

Grandiose promises made two years ago of a unified stance on rebuilding Europe's institutions, to make the Union fit to accept up to 10 new members from Eastern and Central Europe, collapsed in the small hours of yesterday in a welter of bickering at Europe's "top table".

As it became clear that member states would not even succeed in limiting the number of commissioners or deciding how to fairly distribute votes between member states in preparation for expansion, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, was seen stomping down the press corridor, grim faced and fuming.

By the end of the night Jean Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, was not speaking to Wim Kok, his Dutch counterpart, whom he accused of "greedily" trying to snatch too many votes for the Netherlands. Lamerto Dini, the Italian foreign minister (who fell off his bike during the lunch-break) cruelly hated Tony Blair for

blocking progress on justice co-operation. While the Spanish annoyed everyone by choosing the early hours of the morning to launch debate on the more obscure of Europe's obscure voting mechanisms - the so-called Iannina compromise.

Had the struggle to secure economic and monetary union sapped the energy of member states to proceed towards political union? Only two years ago the conventional wisdom said that the two processes went hand in hand.

Tony Blair, who had come to Amsterdam to prove he could fight for "British interests", found he hardly had to enter the ring - other member states had already blocked many of the integrationist moves which Mr Blair was pledged to oppose. It was the Germans who cut a swathe through the list of areas to be subject to qualified majority voting, so that Britain in the end gave away the British veto in fewer areas than it had offered in the talks.

Spain fought hardest for the rights of big member states to retain their voting clout at the expense of small states. Neutral countries and Denmark fought as hard as Britain to water down attempts to create a common defence policy.

And many other member states argued just as hard for Britain for "national interests". So has Europe at last reached

the high watermark of integration?

It would be foolish to write off the Amsterdam Treaty too quickly. At Amsterdam the traditional process of EU integration may have run into some sturdy buffers. But from now on, instead of trying to proceed onwards down one single track, the integration train may in future de-couple, and split into several different branches.

Despite the confusion and the disunity, the Amsterdam Treaty produced at least one highly significant agreement, which could yet provide the mechanism for the EU to make sense of its differences: the principle of "flexible" decision-making.

The new treaty, for the first time, sets out the rules by which some countries might choose to share powers in certain areas "flexibly", that is, at a different pace from other countries.

The policy makes sense at a time when the Union appears to be discovering deep cultural differences. Hunger for integration waxes and wanes. Germany, for example, is clearly losing its appetite for old-style integration right now, while Britain appears a little more favourable than it used to be. So why not be "flexible" about integration and stop forcing the pace? The dangers of proceeding down the new "flexible" tracks are many for the Union, and have led some to fear eventual fragmentation.

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news



Borderline decision: The Countryside Commission hopes that a £1.35m path along Hadrian's Wall from Wallsend to Bowness will help cut erosion Photograph: Brian Harris

Hadrian's Wall gets a path to go the distance

Hadrian's Wall, one of the country's most treasured monuments, is to be given a £1.35m grant from the national lottery, it was announced yesterday.

The money will help the creation of the Wall Path, a new trail for walkers along the route of the 2nd century Roman fortification.

The path, which will cover 80 miles from Wallsend, in North Tyneside, in the east, to Bowness, on Solway, in the west, will take four years to complete in a project costing a total of £4.5m,

said the Countryside Commission. The aim is to enable people to enjoy the wall and the surrounding countryside.

At present, visitors cannot walk near the wall in many areas and have caused erosion in others, making management a high priority.

The Countryside Commission's northern regional officer, Keith Buchanan, said: "Hadrian's Wall is not just for long-distance walkers. It will enable the public to explore and enjoy

the length of the wall and open the way to sections of it which are currently less accessible.

"The path provides the right way forward to ensure we preserve the fragile archaeology but still allow people to visit and appreciate for themselves the breathtaking beauty of the wall and the surrounding countryside.

"We are working closely with landowners, farmers, English Heritage, the National Trust, Northumberland

National Park and four local authorities to see the project through."

It is hoped that the path will be completed by the summer of 2001. It is estimated that by 2006, some 10,000 to 20,000 people may walk the whole path each year.

It is expected that visitors, boosted by higher numbers of walkers, will spend £6.94m each year in the area, a boost to the local economy which could support about 80 new jobs.

Delivery man was executed to order

Ian Surrell

A young father, who was killed in what police described as a "meticulously planned execution" as he delivered a curry to the home of the Solicitor General, knew the identity of his attackers, detectives believe.

Abdul Samad, 25, was hacked to death with knives and meat cleavers after responding to a bogus fast food order which gave the fashionable Islington address of Lord Falconer, the Solicitor General and close friend of Tony Blair.

At a press conference at Scotland Yard yesterday, Detective Superintendent Colin Hardingham said he could not discount the possibility that the attack was linked to a "curry war".

"This murder didn't happen by accident, it was planned," he said. "I'm confident that the people knew him and that Abdul Samad knew the people and those that planned it."

"He was most viciously attacked. It was a brutal attack. In fact I would go so far as to say it was an execution."

Det Supt Hardingham said he had ruled out robbery as a motive for the crime, which he believed had been planned over many days or even weeks.

He revealed that a similar hoax call to the Curry-in-a-Hurry takeaway, where Mr Samad was the only night-time delivery driver, had been made for the same street only two nights before the attack.

The call could have been a practice run, or the attackers may have been confused because Mr Samad had arrived in a different car before taking the meal back to the shop.

Det Supt Hardingham said that Alwyne Road in Islington had probably been chosen for the attack because it was a quiet street. Lord Falconer and his family have been interviewed by detectives and said that they had never ordered such food.

Police believe their house was picked because its wide driveway made it likely that the delivery car would pull up right outside, making the attack easier to carry out.

In the event, Mr Samad briefly escaped his attackers

and ran 200 yards into nearby Alwyne Villas, where he was attacked opposite the former home of Dame Stella Rimington, the former head of MI5. He was repeatedly stabbed and hit with what police believe was a baseball bat and died three hours later in hospital, early on 22 May.

An internal police inquiry is under way into how officers who arrived at the scene believed the victim to have been white. The error, which may have been due to his massive loss of blood, set in chain a series of events which led to the arrest of Mr Samad's brother and cousin, who were traced from leaflets found in the victim's possession.

Det Supt Hardingham admitted that the mistake had led to "six or seven hours of confusion". Mr Samad's relatives are not suspected of being involved in the attack.

Mr Samad had recently bought a part share in the takeaway business, which was in St Paul's Road, Islington, a short distance from where he was attacked.

The dead man's sister, Halima Begum, 23, yesterday made a tearful plea for help in apprehending the killers, who witnesses have described as being Asian men in their twenties.

She said the family had been shocked by the brutality and personal nature of the attack.

"What we have to get clear is that my brother is 25," she said. "Whatever he may have done to whoever, the brutality of this murder does not fit whatever he may have been involved in. It just does not make sense."

Some members of the public have suggested to detectives that the motive may have something to do with Mr Samad's personal life. He was married with two daughters, aged one and three, and came from a close-knit family of six children.

Police are particularly keen to obtain further information from the Bangladeshi community in and around Brick Lane in east London.

They have offered protection to any potential witnesses who may fear reprisals, and an incident has been set up, telephone 0181 358 1336.

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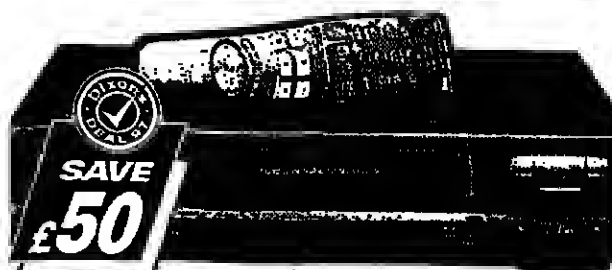


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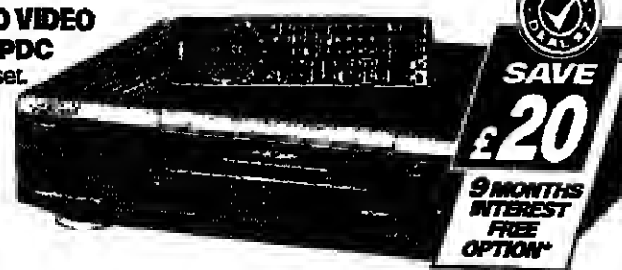
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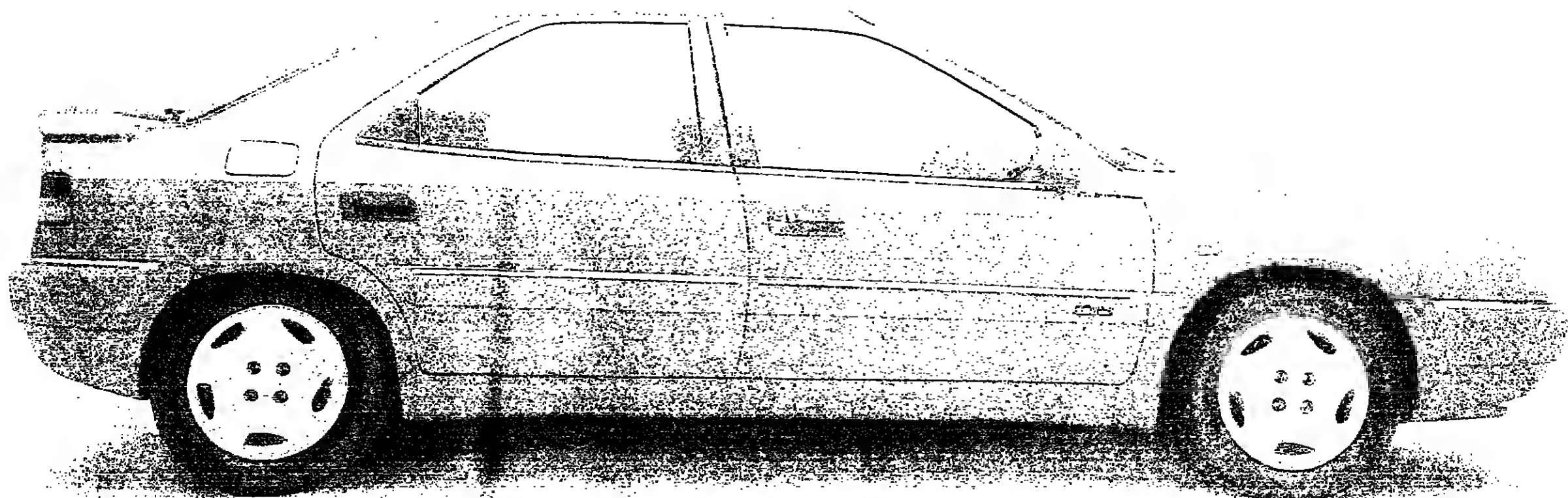
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news

Dolly's team work on cystic fibrosis cure

Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

A drug obtained from the milk of genetically engineered sheep is being tested on patients with cystic fibrosis for the first time.

The sheep, bred by the same Edinburgh-based team of researchers that produced Dolly, the world's first animal cloned from an adult cell, were grown

from embryos into which fragments of human DNA had been inserted. This caused them to produce a protein, normally obtained from human blood, in their milk.

It is the first time that the Medicines Control Agency has given the go-ahead for a clinical trial involving a transgenic product. The drug, transgenic alpha-1 antitrypsin (TgAAT), will

initially be given to 12 male patients at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge in order to assess its safety and tolerability. It will be compared with a placebo.

A further study at a later stage will examine the effects of the drug when administered to 60 cystic fibrosis patients over four weeks. This will be followed by a six-month trial involving 160 patients at up to 20 centres.

The drug is produced by PPL Therapeutics in the Roslin Institute, Edinburgh.

The biotechnology company was set up to exploit the genetic engineering and cloning techniques developed at the Roslin Institute, where the pioneering sheep clone Dolly was born. However, the Dolly team was not involved in developing the transgenic cystic fibrosis drug.

Phase one trials of the drug, which involved healthy volunteers, were successfully completed last month.

Dr Ron James, the managing director of PPL, said: "We believe it is the first time that the UK authorities have examined a transgenically derived product, and it is a significant milestone for PPL."

The trial will be led by Dr

Diana Bilton, consultant chest physician and head of the cystic fibrosis service at Papworth Hospital.

She said: "This could potentially be very exciting news for cystic fibrosis sufferers. It does not offer a cure, but it may prove to offer better control of lung disease."

Cystic fibrosis is the commonest serious genetic disease

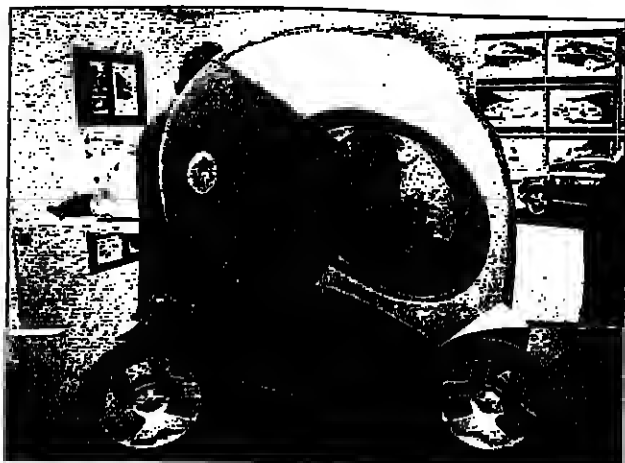
in Caucasian children, and it affects about one person in 2,000.

The disease causes the mucus-secreting glands to go into overdrive, resulting in repeated attacks of bronchitis and affecting the pancreas. Sufferers rarely live beyond the age of 30. A spokesman for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust said: "We are very excited indeed. It's an

indication of what this type of research can achieve."

"The greatest problem for people with cystic fibrosis now is the tremendous damage done over a number of years to the lungs."

"This treatment reduces the inflammation which leads to further infection and eventually the lungs failing. It could be a very, very significant treatment."



Tomorrow's world: Models of the environmentally friendly vehicles of the future designed by students of the Royal College of Art. Photographs: David Rose

Lean, green and quirky: is this the shape of cars to come?

It may not be everyone's idea of motoring, but designers claim this is the shape of cars to come, writes Randolph Ramesh. Devised for the RAC by students on the Royal College of Art's "vehicle design course", the new car will be a cleaner, greener alternative to today's roadsters.

According to the students' short jaunt into the future, these beasts would be hailed by passing pedestrians on city streets which would then take them to their required destination. They could also be driven into workplaces by one employee and taken home by another.

Professor Ken Greenley, the course director, said: "We will design a vehicle that will perform a new role in London where most travel is concerned - with short runs at relatively low speed."

"Currently there is a lot of waste on the roads in terms of fuel used and the amount of

space taken up. A car is efficient when it is running along a motorway carrying four people. However, most of its life is spent parked outside the home or office, taking up space."

With such a radical re-design, much of the accepted wisdom regarding cars would need to be junked.

The materials used in the car's construction would have to be light enough to improve fuel efficiency but tough enough to withstand car crashes.

The RAC believes that if a host of modern technologies were incorporated in one new "supermodel", fuel consumption improvements of more

than 200 per cent could be achieved without any loss of comfort, safety or performance.

"Our vision for new improvements include 'slippery' composite cars with low air resistance, hybrid engines combining petrol or diesel and electric power, and a fast-acting catalyst to scrub out emis-

sions," said Richard Woods, the organisation's campaigns manager.

"The car we come up with may not become a reality for another 10 to 20 years, but we have to start somewhere."

"We already know that people are less wedded to the idea of a car than they once were."

Doctors reject idea of £10 visit

Jeremy Laurance

Family doctors yesterday threw out proposals to charge patients for consultations, but cheered calls for measures to deter unnecessary visits to the surgery.

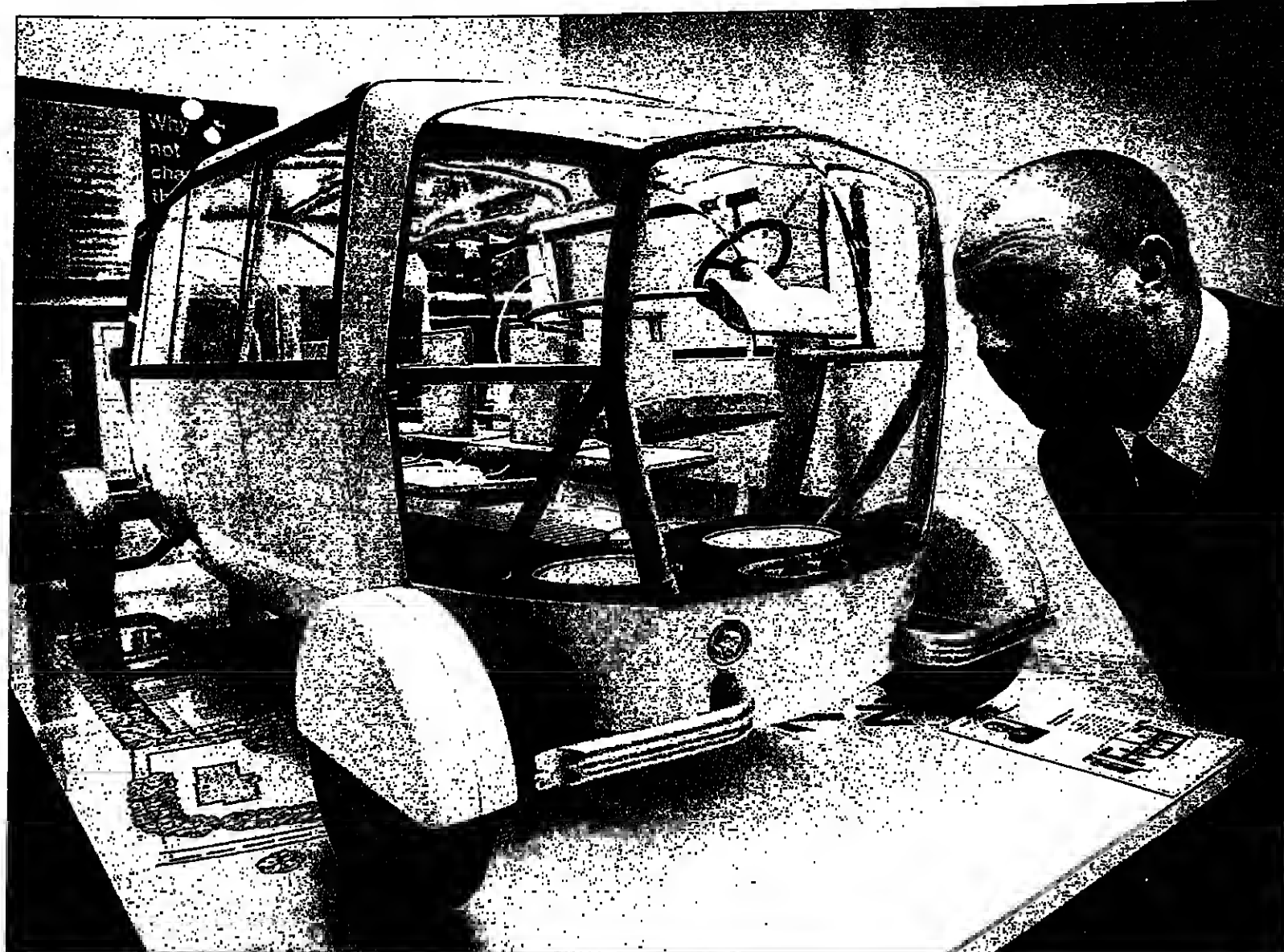
GPs said the NHS was seriously underfunded, but reluctantly conceded that charging patients £10 a time for treatment, and more than double that for a home visit, was not the way to remedy the problem.

Responding to last week's disclosure that the Government is considering extending patient charges as part of its review of the NHS's hard pressed £44bn budget, the British Medical Association's annual conference of GPs yesterday reaffirmed its belief in a free service.

However, almost a third of the 500 representatives backed a call for the imposition of new charges to raise extra funds and deter trivial demands. The vote in favour of charges was the highest recorded by the BMA for more than a decade.

Dr Jonathan Reggler of Buckinghamshire told yesterday's conference in London that billions of pounds poured into the NHS from taxation was not enough and never would be.

Opponents of the proposal said the charges would be difficult to collect, expensive to administer and could threaten the doctor-patient relationship. Dr Stephen Amiel of Islington, north London, said: "Penalising the sick because they are sick is to my mind an obscenity."



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Wootch Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	4.00%	4.50%	5.10%	5.40%	6.20% ^{††}
Nationwide Capitalbuilder 90 Day	4.20% [†]	4.50%	4.80%	5.10%	5.40%	5.40%
TSB 60 Day (60 Day Notice)	3.25% [†]	3.50%	4.55%	5.00%	5.25%	5.25%

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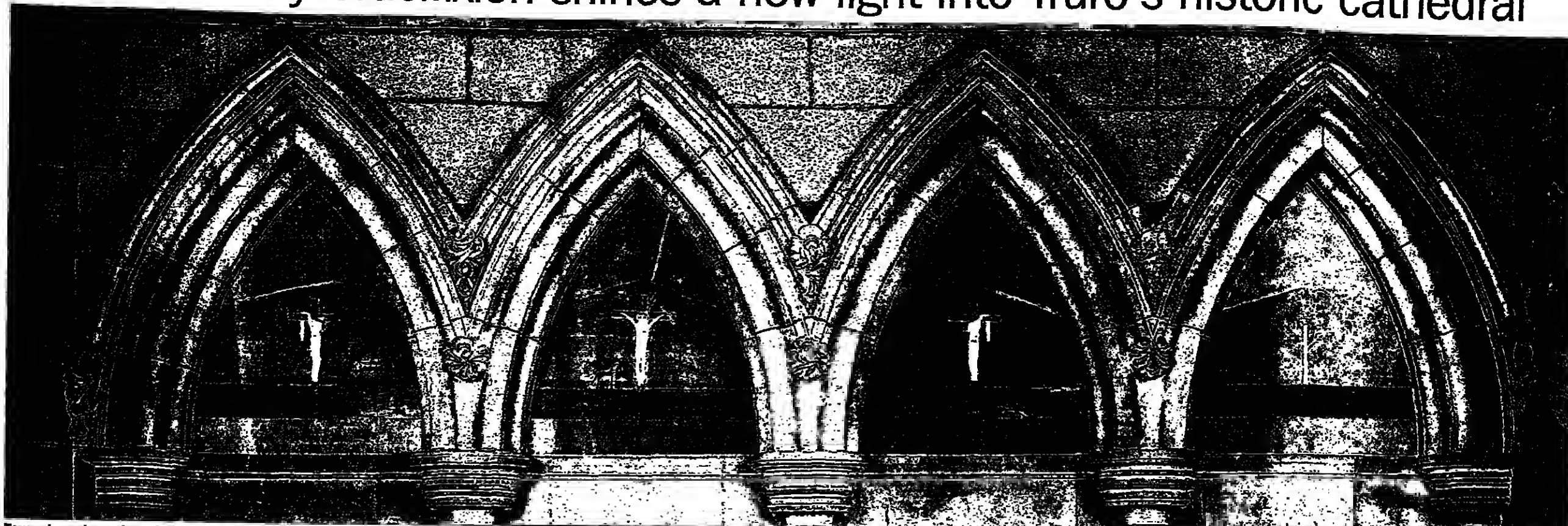
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Modern-day Crucifixion shines a new light into Truro's historic cathedral



Towards redemption: Calvary, a series of four luminous panels painted by Craigie Aitchison, is being dedicated to the Glory of God and Truro Cathedral, in Cornwall, today. The work, which fills blind stone arches above the altar in the Chapel of St Mary, is the artist's first commission for a church; since 1958 the Crucifixion has been one of his principal subjects, but nearly all the paintings are in private collections
Photograph: Sassoon

Plan to free witnesses from fear

Patricia Wynn Davies
Legal Affairs Editor

Radical proposals to help frightened witnesses could mean a sharp increase in successful prosecutions of hard-drug dealers and sex offenders.

Many prosecutions, particularly for drugs offences, are being dropped, wasting millions of pounds, because witnesses fail to turn up to testify, fearing reprisals from drug barons.

Under the proposals by the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, statements of witnesses later subjected to intimidation or the fear of intimidation would be allowable to be used by the prosecution in criminal trials in place of oral testimony.

The changes would also enable more prosecutions to be brought against child sex abusers, abusers of mentally disabled people, and rapists.

At present, prosecutions of alleged abusers often collapse or fail to get the go-ahead in the first place because the child victim is too young or a disabled person too disadvantaged to cope with the trial and cross-examination. But under the commission's proposals, judges would be given the power to admit previous statements to the police as evidence. There should also be an additional discretion for the court to admit statements of absent witnesses in cases where the "interests of justice" require it, the commission says. The same rules would apply in rape cases where the victim is too traumatised to face her alleged attacker in court.

The changes would operate as major new exceptions to the rule against hearsay evidence, which

excludes evidence other than oral evidence from a person about what they saw or heard.

The proposals are bound to attract criticism because the maker of a written statement cannot be cross-examined. But the commission emphasises that the changes would help accused people as well as prosecutors and could help to avoid miscarriages of justice.

Their report cites a 1994 case in which an eight-year-old witness had provided a statement to the police which contradicted the prosecution case. The child was later unable to recollect the events. Because of the existing rule, evidence which tended to show that the defendant had not committed the murder he was charged with never reached the jury.

In another case a white man was accused of assaulting a three-year-old girl. She was not called as a witness and the defendant was prevented from using evidence that she had initially described her attacker as "coloured".

Stephen Silber QC, the Law Commissioner responsible for the project, said: "We believe that our recommendations, if enacted, would be of assistance in many areas, including assisting in the prosecution of drug offenders. They would make it much easier for the evidence of frightened prosecution witnesses to be adduced."

Publication of the report coincides with the announcement of an interdepartmental review of the protection of witnesses, headed by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, which will consider whether to let vulnerable witnesses provide written or video evidence to courts.

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Holding out: Romanian miners shouting anti-government slogans during a strike over low wages and conditions in the Jiu valley yesterday, when around 4,000 miners gathered in front of the union HQ in Petroeni

Photograph: Radu Sighet/Reuters

Splits on euro reveal Jospin's weakness

Paris — It has not been an impressive first two weeks in power for the French Socialists.

Tuesday's zig and zag in Amsterdam — with three different, publicly stated policies on Emu on the course of one day — capped 10 days of incoherence, drift and indecision on European policy.

Some friendly French commentators suggest this has been a deliberate kicking-up of dust, to buy the new government time for the far tougher decisions on Emu which lie ahead.

But much of the dust has been kicked into the face of a German government which faces its own struggle for domestic survival. The personal relationships, at the heart of the alliance between France and Germany, have rarely been more strained.

It can be argued that Lionel Jospin, the new French Prime Minister, was unlucky with the



John Lichfield looks at the fall-out for the French following Amsterdam

international agenda. He had only two weeks to prepare for the EU summit in Amsterdam. But the inconsistencies of the past week suggest a more fundamental problem.

At one level, this is a government unprepared for office because it did not expect to win the election. More than that, it is a government struggling to make sense of a campaign agenda loaded with populist and contradictory ideas. No one expected to have to put them into practice within two weeks of taking power.

Thus, the Socialists promised to enter the single currency on time; to avoid all new taxes and spending cuts to meet the Emu guidelines; and to shift the whole direction of Emu policy away from rigid monetarist orthodoxy towards growth and job-creation.

Mr Jospin has promised to govern openly and honestly and carry out in office what he promised in opposition. But he must know that it is not possible to deliver all these promises at once, leaving aside the pledges to increase unemployment benefit and the minimum wage and create 700,000 subsidised jobs.

Thus, the European affairs minister, Pierre Moscovici, was, in a sense, only restating policy when he said on Tuesday that the government would have to audit the public finances before it knew whether or not it could join Emu. Even without the cost of the campaign promises, the French budget is said to be heading for a deficit this year of between 3.8 and 4 per cent of GNP, well beyond the Maastricht guideline of 3 per cent.

The finance minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, was also, in a sense, stating the obvious when he said France needed a generous and flexible interpretation of the guidelines to keep Emu on track.

Finally, with the markets and German officials wobbling all over the place, a rattled-looking Mr Jospin was also restating government policy when he gave a "profound commitment" on Tuesday night "to achieve the single currency on time".

On a generous interpretation, this was a case of newly-minted ministers speaking with the candour of opposition spokesmen. On a more realistic interpretation, the new French government is split down the middle on Emu policy.

On the most cynical interpretation, the whole performance has been choreographed to put pressure on the Germans and others to allow France more space within the Maa-

tricht rules. Whatever the case, public agonising and disagreement is unlikely to help anyone, if it convinces the bond and currency markets that Emu is dead and waiting to be buried.

The timing of Mr Moscovici's comments especially infuriated the Germans. Chancellor Kohl's fragile domestic position on Emu had already been weakened by Mr Jospin's decision to take hostage the Stability Pact on budgetary discipline within the Emu.

The row had been resolved the day before on German terms, with Mr Jospin accepting vague new texts on job creation and macro-economic management. But Chancellor

'The price has been severe strain — even outright distrust — within the Franco-German alliance'

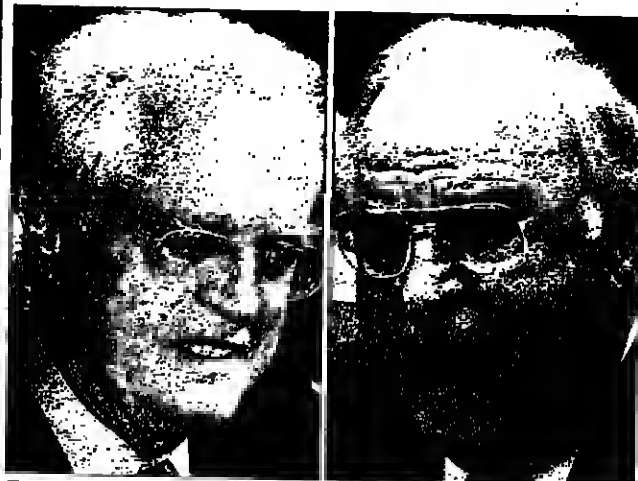
Kohl's opposition, including some from within the senior ranks of the Bavarian Christian Democrats, seized gratefully on the row as further proof that a franco-deutschmark marriage would be a disaster.

Imagine, therefore, the Chancellor's mood when the next day a senior French politician suggested Paris was considering leaving him and every one else at the altar.

Mr Jospin's decision to back down on the Stability Pact has been treated relatively kindly at home. The centre-left newspaper *Libération* said he made a serious mistake in trying to extort better terms from Mr Kohl at the Franco-German summit in Potters. It has also emerged that President Jacques Chirac did threaten last week to cause a full-scale crisis of "co-habitation" if Mr Jospin carried out his threat to block the Stability Pact in Amsterdam.

There has been some grumbling among Communists (though not from the party leadership). Otherwise, most commentators have accepted Mr Jospin gained a little ground in awkward circumstances.

As *Le Monde* pointed out, however, the price has been severe strain — even outright distrust — within the Franco-German alliance.



Endangered alliance: Dithering by Jospin (left) has dealt a blow to Kohl's own chances of survival

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AN OPEN LETTER TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II QUEEN OF AUSTRALIA

We write to appeal to you as Australia's constitutional Head of State. We do so as a matter of some urgency and not without hope. We are looking to you to protect the interests of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this land, Australia.

We love this land and are proud of our achievements but we cannot be truly at peace in this country until such time as we properly acknowledge our full history and remedy what can, and must, be put to rights.

The history of the treatment of the first Australians at the hands of Europeans is a sad one. It is a tale of disease, treachery, deprivation and murder.

For many decades - as recently as the 1970s - Aboriginal babies and children were forcibly taken from their mothers, to be brought up in missions and foster families and assimilated into white society. Many were used as cheap labour, many were sexually abused. All were meant to be stripped of their culture and identity. Many never saw their mothers or fathers again. They have become known as "the stolen generation".

The Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has just issued a major report concluding that past Australian government policy resulting in the "stolen generations" constituted an act of genocide, as defined in the International Convention of 1948. Their finding has been supported by the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. It makes for harrowing reading, and has moved many to tears including parliamentarians and distinguished jurists. Your Governor General, His Excellency the Hon Sir William Deane, has given a gracious and generous apology. However, the report called for a national apology from the Prime Minister of Australia, but so far he has refused.

It was only in 1967 that Australians decided in a referendum to recognise indigenous Australians as human beings to be counted in the census rather than being counted among Australia's flora and fauna.

As recently as March 1996, following a visit to Australia, Amnesty International reported "...a pattern of ill-treatment and arbitrary arrests occurs against a backdrop of systematic discrimination against Aborigines".

Even now an Aboriginal child is three to five times more likely to die in infancy than other Australian children. Most Australians will live into their seventies, while most Aborigines will die in their fifties. Australia is one of the richest countries in the world but still has not provided safe drinking water to many Aboriginal communities.

Despite the odds, Aboriginal people have survived in Australia. They do not want to dwell on the past or to apportion blame. They are people of exceptional generosity of spirit, who are working hard to climb out of the whirlpool of ill-health, sorrow and social dislocation which Australian colonisation has caused. Their vision of the future is one of harmonious co-existence with their fellow Australians.

But this vision can only be realised if Aboriginal people have access to their traditional lands. Land is special to all who live and work on it, but to Aboriginal people land is of exceptional spiritual and cultural importance. Their religious traditions and culture cannot be practised without access to sacred and culturally significant sites, making land central to both their sense of identity and their survival. Land also enables Aboriginal people to negotiate about their future and to benefit from economic development.

Alone of Britain's former colonies there has been no treaty with Australia's first inhabitants. It was not until 1992 that the Australian High Court acknowledged that Australia was in fact inhabited when Captain Cook landed in 1770, and that Aboriginal people in many parts of Australia still have some rights to their land. Six months ago the High Court further ruled that native title rights could co-exist with the rights of pastoralists.

Your Prime Minister, Mr Howard, is now proposing legislation which will take away most of these remaining Aboriginal rights to land - legislation that will give that land to the pastoral industry, an industry dominated by Australia's largest and wealthiest companies and families. Many overseas companies and individuals also stand to benefit.

Despite appeals from the leaders of the other parties in Parliament he refuses to guarantee his legislation will comply with Australian laws against racial discrimination. Prime Minister Howard refuses to guarantee that constitutional powers will not be used against the interests of the first Australians.

Aboriginal people are not asking for anyone's land to be taken away. They simply want the right to co-exist and to live with mutual respect.

At the time of the granting of pastoral leases last century the Crown stated its concern for the rights of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this continent. Historical records demonstrate that the intention in pursuing pastoral leases was to preserve the hunting and other rights of the Aboriginal occupants, not to drive them into the sea. Today those rights are at grave risk, and many fear that the final act of dispossession is about to occur. In these circumstances we appeal to you to take all appropriate steps within your power to ensure all Australians have full enjoyment of their rights, most particularly the full Native Title rights which the High Court has properly recognised.

We also appeal to you to do all within your powers as Australia's Head of State to ensure a full apology to the "stolen generation" and all those who have suffered from the policies of forced removals of children, as recommended by Sir Ronald Wilson and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. We commend your willingness, evident in the apologies you offered to the indigenous peoples of New Zealand, to recognise and acknowledge the continuing effect of past injustices.

We particularly ask that you seize the opportunity of your meeting this week with Prime Minister Howard to pursue these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Australians for Native Title
Liberty (The Australian Council for Civil Liberties)
The Australian Forum of Human Rights Organisation (Action Committee)
Sisters of St Joseph (NSW)
The Human Rights Council of Australia,
The Australian Conservation Foundation,
Deaths in Custody Watch Committee (WA) Inc.
Community and Public Sector Union (PSU Group)
Australian Youth Policy and Action Committee
Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (National Office)

FIRST THEIR CHILDREN WERE STOLEN ...NOW THEIR LAND TOO?



AN APPEAL TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE:

As Australians we share the views of the British Prime Minister on the importance of human rights in domestic and foreign policy. We support the appeal to Mr Blair to raise this grave human rights situation with Mr Howard in their discussions and to seek a commitment from him to respect the views of indigenous Australians and to work together with them for the realisation of their human rights.

As Australians we acknowledge the ties of history and shared values with the women and men of the United Kingdom. Many of you have been part of our history. We need your help now to help us build a future free of discrimination and based on respect for the rights of the first Australians. Please write to the Australian High Commissioner, in London at Australia House, The Strand, London, WC2 4LA urging the Australian Government to respect the anti-discrimination legislation and to pursue a path of true co-existence between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians.

Please send in a donation to the address below to help this campaign:

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14
international

Cyprus gripped by optimism and dread as US aims to make peace

Christopher de Bellaigue
Ankara

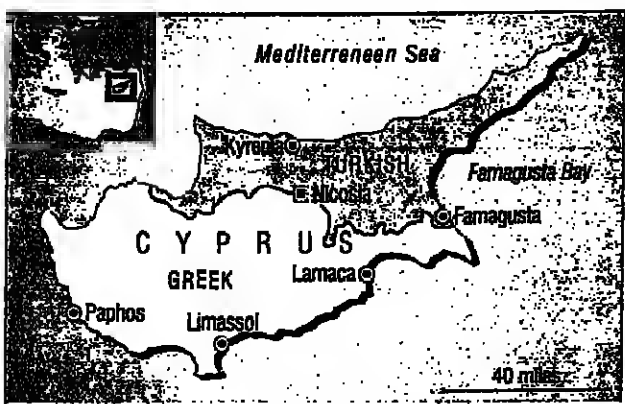
Optimism and dread are swirling around Cyprus's two communities and their respective motherlands, Turkey and Greece. Optimism, because President Bill Clinton recently asked his trouble-shooter, Richard Holbrooke, to come up with a solution for the troubled island. Dread, because success at forthcoming talks between Cyprus's Greek and Turkish leaders is far from assured.

The signs are not propitious. Glafkos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot President, says he will attend the UN-sponsored talks in New York which begin next month only to divert charges of bad faith. Besides, going soft on the Turks could cost Mr Clerides points in next year's presidential election.

Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, is uncompromising, too. He reminds his sponsors in Ankara of \$600m-worth of anti-aircraft missiles which the Greek Cypriots are preparing to receive from Russia. Turkish mainlanders, who have 36,000 troops on the island, say the missiles will threaten Turkish airspace and mutter about pre-emptive action.



Holbrooke: Peace-broker



month was made Mr Clinton's special representative to Cyprus. The appointment is significant not only because Mr Holbrooke has the President's ear, but because his approach to international disputes is "results-oriented", diplomacy-speak for getting things done.

Helping to clear up Cyprus - which means setting up the bicommunal federation which

both sides say they want - would advance Mr Holbrooke's claims to the position he covets most: that of Secretary of State.

Since Turkey landed troops on the island in 1974, after a coup there threatened *enosis* (unity) with Greece, Cypriot Turks and Greeks have lived in generally peaceful isolation from one another. This situation outrages Greek nationalists,

but suits Cyprus's Turkish minority, which constitutes 18 per cent of the population but controls 37 per cent of the land.

The immediate problem is a massive build-up of arms on both sides. The Greeks' new missile system is one part of a defence upgrade which is expected to cost them - and Greece proper - \$2.6bn. The Turks are busy arming too.

Ankara, Turkey (AP) — Necmettin Erbakan, the Prime Minister, resigned yesterday — hours after securing backing in Parliament for a political manoeuvre that would keep his Islamic Welfare Party in the government — in an attempt to mollify a military angered by his Islamic policies. Under Mr Erbakan's strategy, Tansu Ciller, the Deputy Prime Minister, would take over. But President Süleyman Demirel still had to designate Mrs Ciller, who is also Foreign Minister.

Persuading Turkish Cypriots to negotiate in good faith is hard, as no one save Turkey recognises Mr Denktas's Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Last week, Mr Denktas cancelled a meeting with Sir David Hannay after learning Britain's representative to Cyprus had met members of the Greek Cypriot parliament, but would meet none from its Turkish Cypriot counterpart.

The European Commission is due to begin talks on Cyprus's accession to the EU next spring. Mr Clerides knows that not going to New York would prejudice Cyprus's chances of entry. In the same way, mainland Turks know that solving the dispute is the best way to advance their own claims to membership.

What annoys Turks is the line - repeated by Sir David - that Cyprus will join the EU, whether there has been a settlement or not.



Lethal message: Israeli missiles take off, heading for a Hizbollah base in Lebanon yesterday. Photograph: AFP

Netanyahu in full control as rival quits

Patrick Cockburn
Jerusalem

"As long as I had faith in the Prime Minister I remained in the government," said Dan Meridor, the Israeli Finance Minister, explaining his overnight resignation from the government of Benjamin Netanyahu.

In theory, his departure came after a disagreement over currency reform. But Israeli commentators have no doubt that the Prime Minister wanted to get rid of a long-term rival.

Once again Mr Netanyahu has underlined his ruthlessness and effectiveness in disposing of enemies. A shocked Mr Meridor, a leading member of the Likud party, said the Prime Minister had suddenly developed an intense interest in the extent to which the shekel, the Israeli currency, will be allowed to float. Rejecting a compromise worked out with the Bank of Israel, Mr Netanyahu insisted on a cabinet vote, which went against Mr Meridor.

Had Mr Meridor resigned two months ago, when police called for the indictment of the Prime Minister over the appointment of Roni Bar-On, one of his political cronies, as the attorney-general, Mr Netanyahu might have suffered serious political damage. But the departure of the Finance Minister now, probably to be replaced by Ariel Sharon, the Infrastructure Minister, or by Yaakov Neeman, a former Justice Minister, is something that Mr Netanyahu can afford to take in his stride.

The timing of Mr Meridor's resignation confirms the impression that he has poor judgement. At the time of the Bar-On affair, few of Mr Netanyahu's cabinet came out in his support. The scandal was laid to rest last Sunday when the Supreme Court rejected petitions against the decision by the attorney-general not to prosecute the Prime Minister.

Mr Netanyahu appears to have decided to move immediately against Mr Meridor. He may also have decided to target other members of the cabinet suspected of disloyalty during the scandal.

Mr Netanyahu is looking more secure than at any time during his first year in office. He has his cabinet under control. Confrontation with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, over building a new Jewish settlement at Har Homa, in Jerusalem, has not provoked widespread violence. US support for Israel has not faltered and the anger of Arab states has proved ineffectual.

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Hong Kong 香港 handover

Tension rises as Taiwan moves up China's list

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong

The return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty was supposed to be a model for Taiwan's reunification with the motherland. But it is causing problems for all three parties.

When the paramount Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, devised his plan for one country, two systems, he was mainly thinking of its application to Taiwan, while suggesting that the model would be tested in Hong Kong after the return to Chinese sovereignty on 1 July.

However, as the handover nears, tension between China and Taiwan has again risen with the latter announcing a major military exercise to start on Monday. China is rumoured to be planning a counter-exercise.

The presence of John Chang, Taiwan's foreign minister, in the United States has also raised the temperature, following official Chinese protests and allegations that the visit is in breach of agreements to "restrict US-Taiwan relations to the unofficial arena". Taiwan, which seems to

be taking the lead in upping the ante, is nevertheless in the embarrassing position of having to join China in welcoming the end of colonial rule and the reunification of a part of China.

This is why some 60 Taiwanese representatives will be present at the handover ceremony. The delegation is likely to be headed by Koo Chen-fu, a businessman and leader of the quasi-official Straits Exchange Foundation which is taking the first steps in holding reunification talks with Chinese counterparts.

As ever, Taiwan's presence is no simple matter. The Taiwan government insists that its representatives must not be seated with Chinese local government officials, implying that Taiwan is no more than a province.

Earlier in the year the Chinese Communist Party distributed an internal document describing 1997 as a "crucial year" which would see "the historic resumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong" and signaled that an attempt would be made to initiate talks with the Taiwan government under President Lee Teng-hui.

However, President Lee is showing no obvious enthusiasm for participation in talks about reunification. Beseated by domestic crises, the Taiwanese leader sees little advantage in engaging in a risky bout of diplomacy when public opinion remains heavily against a return to Chi-

na. A poll published this week in Taiwan showed that just 13 per cent of the population were in favour; 53 per cent were happy with the status quo.

Nevertheless, China is in the throes of reunification celebrations and has hinted that the handover might be an appropriate time to resume the dialogue on this matter.

Although China has made it clear that it will not tolerate what it regards as Taiwan "separatist" activity in Hong Kong, it has not insisted on the closure of Taiwan's semi-official government offices. Pro-Taiwan organisations have staged a strategic retreat, lowering their profile and, in some cases, sending leading members to live in Taiwan. The government has closed down the last remaining pro-Taiwan settlement and the once influential Taiwan-backed trade unions are now barely visible.

But China has given no sign that it will prevent Hong Kong retaining its role as a transit point between Taiwan and the mainland. In January, a tentative start was made in establishing direct shipping links but direct air routes and most cargo transfers remain banned. The largest

group of overseas visitors using Hong Kong's airport come from Taiwan, and many Taiwan investors operating in China do so from a Hong Kong base. The establishment of direct ties between China and Taiwan would have a serious impact on the Hong Kong economy.



Border patrol: Pte Chris Richmond of the Scottish Blackwatch regiment surveying the Chinese city of Shenzhen from the Crest Hill lookout in Hong Kong. Photograph: Reuters/Jason Reed

New order seeks face-saving way to reward allies

Having put lesser matters, such as the establishment of an election system, to one side, the Hong Kong members of China's Preparatory Committee, have focused their sights on the pressing matter of finding a system to replace the royal honours, writes Stephen Vines.

The colony's notables have long worried about the disappearance of the colonial honours system and alerted the Chinese leadership to the dangers of trying to run Hong Kong without finding a way of giving some kind of title to those who believe they have earned it for services rendered.

The outgoing colonial regime published its last Queen's Birthday honours list last week, shovelling through a record 202 worthies, including practically everyone who has personally assisted the Governor from his housekeeper to the two "ministers", Martin Dinham and Edward Llewellyn, brought from London as his personal advisers.

British honours, once fervently sought in Hong Kong, have become something of a two-edged sword. Sir Ti Liang Yang, the former Chief Justice, who tried to become Hong Kong's first Chief Executive, also tried to give his knighthood

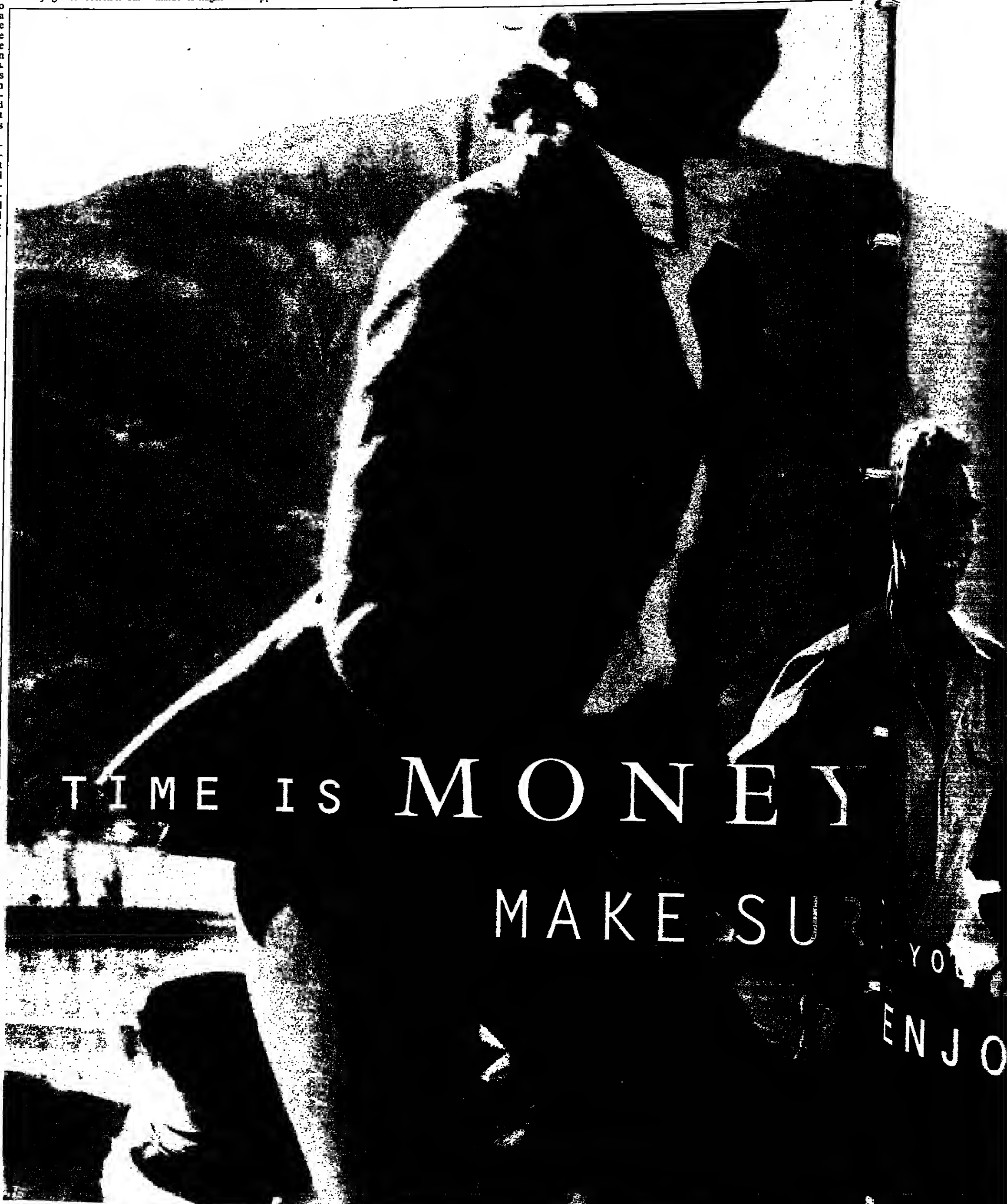
back as part of his campaign. He was told that this was not really on, although he could describe himself as plain mister if he so desired. However, his wife is still known as Lady Barbara.

In a society obsessed by "min", or face, the acquisition of honours is highly regarded. Recipients of honorary doctorates get their companies to take out full-page advertisements in newspapers, filled with congratulatory messages. Seekers of knighthoods and lesser honours were known to besiege Government House with inquiries about how much they needed to give to charity before an honour would be bestowed. Thus it is hardly surprising that the new order is being called upon to find a way of giving "min" to its new found allies.

Meanwhile, even some of Hong Kong's most outspoken anti-colonialists are loath to remove their royally bestowed titles. Lo Tak-shing, a prominent pro-Peking adviser and publisher of a now defunct magazine which carried anti-British articles, reacted angrily to suggestions that he might like to stop using his Commander of the British Empire (CBE) title. "I've earned it and I see no reason to drop it," he said.

World of Lily Wong

by LARRY FEIGN
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Khmer Rouge rivals claim to hold Pol Pot

Matthew Chance
Phnom Penh

Pol Pot, reviled leader of the splintering Khmer Rouge guerrilla movement in Cambodia, has surrendered to renegades who forced him to flee his remote jungle stronghold last week, according to a report on the group's clandestine radio.

General Nhek Bunhach, deputy army chief of staff, said the guerrillas planned to hold Pol Pot to be judged by an international tribunal for his role in the genocidal regime he led between 1975 and 1979 which caused the deaths of two million Cambodians. Earlier, a broadcast by Khmer Rouge clandestine radio claimed that Pol Pot had "confessed". It was not immediately clear to what.

Around intense speculation in recent days over his whereabouts, the radio broadcast said Pol Pot's surrender was "the beginning of a new era in Cambodian history", and that a "dark cloud had now disappeared from above the country".

Government forces have pledged to stand Pol Pot, 69, be-



Pol Pot: Splinter group says he has confessed

fore an international war crimes tribunal for crimes against humanity. There has been no independent confirmation of the surrender and officials in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh greeted the report with scepticism. "We must be careful about this," said Hun Sen, one of the country's two vying prime ministers. "This is not normal. Everything is still a mys-

tery. It is dangerous." If the report were true, he said, Pol Pot should be handed over to the authorities for trial.

The claimed surrender is the latest in a series of unconfirmed events that have sparked widespread rumour and excitement about the possibility of the world seeing one of the 20th century's most reviled despots, who has remained hidden from international scrutiny for nearly 20 years. "If this is true, then it is the very best thing that has happened for Cambodia, and good for the rest of the world also," said Serei Kosol, chief security adviser to Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the country's other Co-Premier. Last week, Prince Ranariddh said Pol Pot and a small group of loyalists had fled the remote Angkor Veng jungle stronghold after an unpopular internal purge of the movement turned most of his supporters against him.

Since the horrors of his brutal Khmer Rouge regime between 1975 and 1979, in which millions of Cambodians were executed, died of starvation or mistreatment, Pol Pot's name

has become synonymous with evil and brutal dictatorship. He has been variously described as "Asia's Hitler", a "genocidal maniac" and a "moon-faced monster".

But as the curtain finally draws on Pol Pot, and the Khmer Rouge he has led for a quarter of a century, "Brother Number One" remains shrouded in uncertainty and rumour.

Secretive to the point of obsession, Pol Pot, a teacher-turned-tyrant whose real name is believed to be Saloth Sar, has hidden himself from the outside world. A single photograph of him exists from the 1980s and his whereabouts and health have been the subject of widespread speculation over the years. Only a year ago, he was rumoured to be dead.

Last week, he was reported to be alive and well, but battling for his survival against break-away Khmer Rouge dissidents, embittered at a bloody purge in which Pol Pot is reported to have ordered the execution of Son Sen, his aged defence chief, and the arrest of other top Khmer Rouge figures.



Heading home: A boy encounters government forces tightening security in Phnom Penh Photograph: Patrick de Noirmont

Armies drill for the next civil war

Ringed by a wall of barbed wire and scores of tense soldiers fingering the well-oiled triggers of their rifles, "Tigers Den" stretches threateningly across the northern suburbs of Cambodia's explosive capital, writes Matthew Chance in Phnom Penh.

Inside the perimeter fences, Hun Sen, the country's powerful "second" prime minister has dug in amid tight security.

In his own bunker across the city, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, co-prime minister and Hun Sen's avowed rival, surrounds himself with fewer gun-toting bodyguards.

Both men are drilling their troops and priming their tanks as the country edges towards renewed civil war.

After clashes on Tuesday night between the two prime ministerial bodyguard units, troops from rival army factions have been deployed on the streets of the capital, Phnom Penh, in anticipation of further violence.

Cambodia's two vying leaders, divided over most issues, are locked in a dangerous stand-off over plans to induct defecting Khmer Rouge guerrillas into the government army and allow the reviled leaders of the movement, with the exception of Pol Pot, back into politics.

Hun Sen has opposed this, and has delivered an angry ultimatum to Prince Ranariddh, warning him that he must choose between staying in power and embracing the Khmer Rouge.

A former Khmer Rouge commander who collaborated with Vietnamese forces to oust the genocidal movement in 1979, Hun Sen remains a *bête*

noire to members of the group, frequently lambasted on clandestine guerrilla radio as a "Hanoi puppet" or a "piece of excrement".

Understandably, he is uncomfortable with the prospect of joining hands with his former Khmer Rouge colleagues.

Moreover, an influx of heavily-armed, well-trained fighters into army ranks loyal to Prince Ranariddh would weaken Hun Sen's hitherto unchallenged military superiority.

"It is ironic that the fall of the hated Khmer Rouge, an event which should be a unifying factor for the country, is proving to be a divisive one. We are now in an extremely dangerous time in Cambodia," said Kier Munthit, a veteran Phnom Penh-based analyst.

"The country is sliding in the direction of civil war and any upset in the fragile balance of power might be all that is needed to push it over the brink."

Since 1993 elections, in which Prince Ranariddh's Funcinpec political party was returned to power, Cambodia has been in political limbo. Hun Sen, wielding considerable military muscle, has threatened to abandon the 1991 UN peace deal and revert - along with the Khmer Rouge - to civil war.

To appease his Cambodian People's Party (CCP), Hun Sen was offered a co-premiership. But the uneasy coalition has been dogged by the intense rivalry between the two leaders.

In recent months, tension has fuelled political violence as both men jostle for advantage in the run-up to general elections next year, after which only one prime minister can assume office.



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significant shorts

Baptists boycott Disney for being 'gay-friendly'

The Southern Baptist Convention, the United States' largest Protestant denomination, yesterday launched a boycott against the Walt Disney Co because of what it said were Disney's "gay-friendly" policies.

An overwhelming majority of delegates to the Southern Baptists' annual meeting approved a resolution calling on its 15.7 million members to boycott Disney and all its subsidiaries, including ABC television. Disney has drawn the anger of conservative religious groups because it offers health benefits to the partners of its homosexual employees, and has allowed "Gay Days", organised by gay rights groups, at its theme parks. Reuters - Dallas

Bribe row sparks Belgian threat

Stefaan De Clerck, the Belgian Justice Minister, threatened a diplomatic incident with France in the row over bribes alleged to have been paid by Dassault, the French aerospace firm. A Liège court issued an international arrest warrant for Serge Dassault, the company head, in May last year, and justice authorities have been trying since then to persuade their French counterparts to co-operate in the investigations. The warrant was withdrawn on Friday, but French authorities still refused to release 11 key documents on the grounds of national security. "This has gone on long enough," Mr De Clerck told parliament. "The French ... must say yes or no to our demand. If it is no it will ... merit an incident of the utmost importance." Reuters - Brussels

Stolen Klee comes home

An early painting by the Swiss artist Paul Klee, stolen from the Phillips Collection in Washington in 1963, is back on display after being returned by a retired Boston businessman. Edward Puhl said he bought the picture, *The Little Regatta*, at a country fair a few years after the theft for less than \$2,000 (£1,250). The picture's estimated value today is in the "low to mid six figures". According to the gallery, no money changed hands for its return, although Mr Puhl stands to receive a healthy tax rebate. Mary Dejevsky - Washington

After Amsterdam: playing the diversity game

There are many reasons why the Tory leadership contest has made such a compelling spectacle. One of the most satisfying is seeing the Conservatives tearing themselves apart over what is fast becoming a non-issue. The Euro-sceptics, if only they realised it, have actually won a number of important arguments; it is thanks in part to them that Tony Blair's position on Europe is now so convincing. Moreover he, and the French electorate, and Theo Waigel (would-be plunderer of the Bundesbank's glittering golden piles) have in their different ways shot the Tory Euro-sceptics' fox. After Amsterdam it is time to ditch an old phrase and say we are all Euro-sceptics now. Sceptical, that is, not about the existence or utility of the European Union but about the conceits and assumptions which have guided it in recent years. The European game has moved on, and John Redwood, William Hague and the other nay-sayers have been left *hors de combat*.

So what, after Amsterdam, is the nature of the game? It starts to look like the re-discovery of diversity, or to put that another way, the end of Kohlism. The propaganda picture of the German Chancellor published by the Tories during the May election campaign was not just offensive, it was plain wrong. It attributed to Helmut Kohl a desire to dominate, when

instead his consuming ambition has been to create a European structure strong enough to strap the Germans in. The Kohl project was meant to lead not just to economic and monetary union, but also to closer political integration. History will surely say of that project, tinged as it has been with noble aspirations and a desperate desire to kill for ever the conditions that led to the Nazis' rampage through Europe, that it chose an odd means to realise itself; a single currency relying on deflation and mechanical delivery of the same stance on government spending and borrowing. The project, in other words, assumed its end (political co-ordination and convergence) as its means. The French election result exposed the problem, which is why the Paris newspapers are today reporting - after the botched attempt to add a jobs and social element to the fiscal stability pact - that the trans-Rhine relationship has become "fragile".

The single currency preoccupation has had other perverse effects - unintended, that is, by Chancellor Kohl himself. Money dominated the agenda at Amsterdam, squeezing out vital questions of how the European Union is to be managed if it is to expand eastwards, as it must. Big decisions were none the less taken. To end border controls (and harmonise immigration policies) is a supreme act of trust in your neighbours, especially those with long

and open coasts, such as Italy and Greece, or those with only a handful of external border guards, such as Austria. But it is on such trust that commerce and human exchange flourish. While Tony Blair properly reflects public opinion in Britain in refusing to extend such trust on Britain's behalf, the difference of view between us and them is stark. But where British reluctance used to look like fear and loathing, now it looks either like prudence or even the sensible articulation of an alternative idea of Europe to that held by the integrationists.

To say that "stalemate" in Amsterdam in fact amounts to the beginning of a new course for Europe would be going too far. Europe faces a period of confusion, however firm the expressed commitments of Bonn and Paris to going ahead with the single currency. From Paris comes the distinct sound of whistling in the dark. Lionel Jospin has returned from Amsterdam virtually empty-handed. He either abandons firm election promises (notably that commitment to ensure Italy is in the first wave of entrants to EMU) or faces further bruising engagements with the Ger-

mans. Over the next months fiscal calculations will be much in use - to determine, for instance, whether a French budget deficit in the current financial year of 3.8 per cent followed by one of 4 per cent plus in 1998 (unless the Jospin government abandons another pledge, not to go ahead with the privatisation of France Télécom) constitutes a "tendency" away from the 3 per cent stipulated by the original Maastricht criteria.

The British government will be sorely tempted to sit out on its island and watch the sport. There is a case for creative negligence. From the founding of the common currency project might come new thought, new remedies. Kohlism would not survive. Tony Blair ought now to be thinking beyond the British presidency of the EU next year to the German elections and the possible emergence of a new national leader there. What Britain can offer, in the meantime, is a rejection of the fatalism that pervades so much continental thinking about the EU. The failure of the common currency would not necessarily mean the end of the road for monetary integration. It would remain a logical consequence of commercial integration. But above all, the Blair government can offer its success - showing the Italians, the French and the Germans that national reforms within a European framework can reduce joblessness, enhance growth

and foster trade on the basis of stable exchange rates. Such success does not come easy: Gordon Brown's problems with the sterling exchange rate are probably only just beginning. Call it a pro-European version of splendid separatism, or call it sceptical realism - after the Amsterdam summit, it starts to look like progress.

A rich turn of phrase

After you'd heard it, the phrase "instability pact" seemed so fitting and obvious to describe the political coupling of Kenneth Clarke and John Redwood. But some bright spark must have coined it first. Was it a hack or a spin-doctoring MP? By early afternoon it was being recycled by the likes of Michael Howard and had entered the general consciousness, with no one claiming copyright. But advertising agencies think authorship matters. Look at the fuss over "Hello Boys", the Wonderbra slogan - even though, as an alert reader pointed out on this page yesterday, film comedian Mel Brooks got there 17 years ago. If intellectual property rights could be established for phrases, just think who would get rich - and how impoverished our everyday conversation would be.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tories must unite behind Ken Clarke

Sir: John Redwood's support for Ken Clarke affirms in the clearest terms his ability to unite the Conservative Party. Many of us have been crying out for an inclusive not an exclusive approach, and this is what today's [18 June] events show. Ken Clarke will genuinely provide.

Principle will not be compromised, indeed it will be enhanced, when strong individuals join together in common sense. Ken Clarke's clear lead in all the polls of opinion will be further strengthened. That broad basis of support will enable him as leader to carry through a radical review of policy and structure. All in the party should now unite around him.

Sir BRYAN NICHOLSON
Kingswood, Surrey

Sir: We believe that any attempts by a prospective Tory party leader to stamp their personal views, to the exclusion of others, on the future composition of the Shadow Cabinet is out of tune with Conservative instincts for tolerance and mutual respect.

Kenneth Clarke and John Redwood have combined to offer the Tory party something we all thought it had lost: unity based on inclusiveness. This is Tony Blair's worst nightmare. We strongly urge all Conservative MPs to vote to make this unity a reality and to reroute their party on the path back to power.

ANTHONY FRIEZE
President, Oxford Union Society
Michaelmas Term 1987
MARC JONES
President, Oxford University
Conservative Association
Michaelmas Term 1985
JESSICA PULAY
President, Oxford Union Society
Trinity Term 1987
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Scottish choice for astronomy

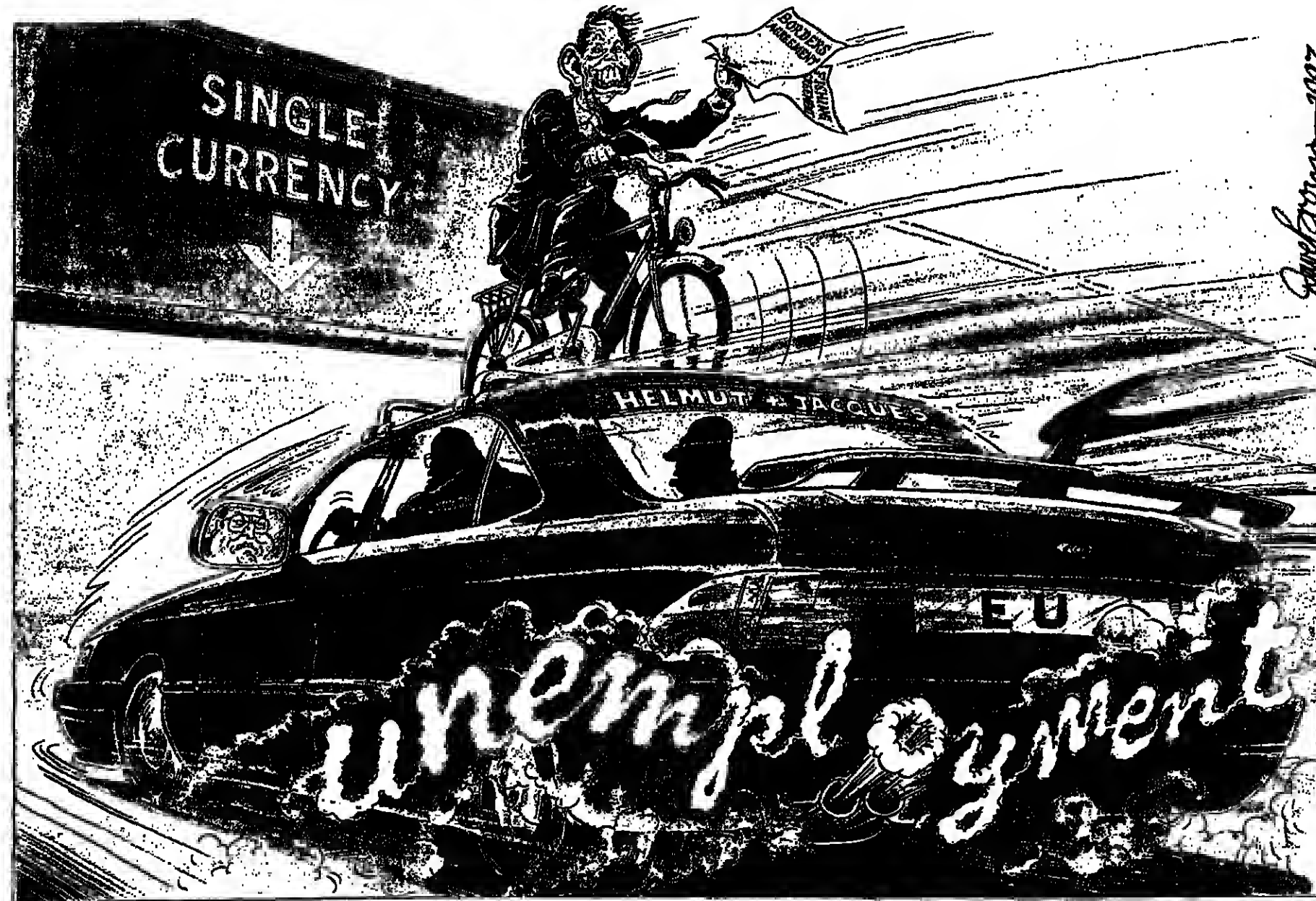
Sir: I write, as chairman of the Ground Based Facilities Committee of the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, to express my agreement with the views put forward by Professor Rowan-Robinson (Letters, 12 June).

I believe that the location of the PPARC Astronomical Technology Centre at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh is highly desirable. Regrettably this will also lead to the run-down of the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Cambridge, as the possibility of continuing to maintain both facilities is unrealistic.

PPARC would have to close more telescopes and reduce much necessary development on the facilities that we have left. Last February my committee had to reduce the expenditure on the Ground Based Telescope facilities by £7.3m (nearly 10 per cent) over the four-year period from April 1997.

This forced the recommendation that UK support for three telescopes (the UK Schmidt, the Carlsberg Meridian telescope and the JKT) should be withdrawn, along with cuts in the development programmes on other telescopes, including the world-class Meridian radio telescope at Jodrell Bank.

To maintain both RGO and ROE at their present levels is not feasible. The decision to create an Astronomical Technology Centre in



Edinburgh cannot be popular with everyone, but I do urge the minister for science and technology to make this tough decision quickly for the benefit of British astronomy.

Professor ALAN WATSON
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
University of Leeds

Drag-hunting is too expensive

Sir: Paul Bell (letter, 18 June) proposes drag-hunting as an alternative to fox-hunting. There are a number of reasons why this won't happen.

It might be possible for an individual to move from one to the other, but drag-hunting is to fox-hunting what powerboat racing is to sailing. One can go fox-hunting or sailing on a comparatively modest budget at the bottom end of both sports (which is where most of us are), but powerboat racing and drag-hunting require a serious outlay of money at the outset for just the basic equipment.

One insurance proposal I received for my horse put drag-hunting in a higher risk category than "ordinary" hunting, alongside polo. Like most fox-hunters, my horse would not be suitable for drag-hunting and I would not sell him to buy a more expensive drag-hunter. Anyway, if hunting is hanged his sale value would collapse and I wouldn't be able to afford a replacement anyway.

It is often blithely said that hunts themselves would "switch". Only one hunt of any type can exist in any given area, and 70 per cent of the country (which includes just about all the suitable areas for drag-

hunting) is already apportioned to existing drag hunts. Thus in my area the Surrey Union hunt, of which I am a member, could only turn to drag-hunting if the Kent and Surrey Bloodhounds agreed to close down and hand over their territory. Also, the bloodhounds require the same amount of territory as four or five packs of foxhounds, so even if they agreed to disband at least three packs of foxhounds would have to close down.

SARAH GODLEY
Westcott, Surrey

Nigerian threat to Sierra Leone

Sir: The approval given by Britain, the US, the UN and the Commonwealth to Nigeria's involvement in Sierra Leone is alarming. There might have been a chance of a negotiated settlement until General Abacha saw an opportunity to make political hay at Sierra Leone's expense. His well-meaning but naive sponsors have sent an arsonist to put out a fire.

How could anyone believe that a dictator who has for the last three years kept his own country's freely elected president, Chief Moshood Abiola, locked in solitary confinement without trial, has suddenly become a fervent protector of democratic principles? The Nigerian army had tanks on the streets of Lagos on 12 June to suppress any expression of dissent by fellow countrymen on the fourth anniversary of the annulment of their democracy, and yet we are led

to believe that the soldiers in Freetown are there to do precisely the opposite.

Had the free world acted similarly against their new-found paladin when he and his cohorts stole the will of the Nigerian people in June 1993 then maybe West Africa would have been more stable and more likely to embrace democracy.

No time should be lost in making all approvals subject to, at the very least, agreed terms of engagement to protect the civilian population. The Nigerian army has a rather loose way with people's lives and the navy is quite happy to shell indiscriminately from off the coast.

TOM ROBBINS
Norfolk Canes, Staffordshire
The writer was personal assistant to Chief Abiola, 1993-95

Tube a key test for Labour

Sir: Resolution of the London Underground's problems will be a test of this government's courage and competence. We seem afraid to speak against this prime example of public squalor vs private affluence. £27m is needed for track maintenance this year; half that is won by individuals in the National Lottery. £1.7bn is required to bring the whole system up to scratch; over £200bn is invested in private cars alone, and £20bn will be spent out from the flotation of the mutual companies.

I can think of no better project to

celebrate the millennium than to bring our public transport system up to date. We would remember our past ingenuity, provide a real cause for celebration and help to counter the grotesque financial and health costs of private road transport. There is a lot of money washing about. Can we not be enabled to buy bonds in public transport systems which pay a small interest and be redeemable after say a minimum of 10 years?

DAVID SHALPIN
Newton Abbot, Devon

Sir: The problem with New Labour's attempt to think the unthinkable is that it always ends up producing things that the last Tory government thought about and found to be overwhelmingly rejected by the voters on 1 May. If the Tories don't understand yet what happened to them at the election, the same is also true for the Labour Party.

The voters rejected concepts of the market and privatisation in favour of public service and accountability. Thinking the unthinkable when it comes to the Tube should be to raise a levy on business and industry in London to pay for a decent service. After all, business leaders have, often and correctly, argued that the deplorable state of the Tube network costs them money in lost working hours. Now is the time for these people to recognise that they, too, have a wider interest than just immediate profit.

KEITH FLETT
London N17

Honour the hero of Arabia

Sir: As a member of the TE Lawrence Society I was naturally interested to see that the motorcycle on which he was killed is for sale ("£2m price tag on the classic bike that killed a legend", 14 June). Leaving aside the question of its value, it would be very regrettable if it left the country.

That possibility - oo, probability - points up the ambiguous treatment that this extraordinary and influential man has received from modern Britain.

Recently, as you report, an early typescript of part of *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom* was sold to an Arab ruler and will, presumably, leave the country. Associated items and a further typescript are destined for a similar fate in the next few weeks.

In 1988, this society asked the then Post Office if it would produce a stamp to commemorate Lawrence's centenary. The request was refused. It is doubly depressing to see some of the trivia that has since found its way on to our envelopes.

Furthermore, the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square would provide an ideal site for a statue of Lawrence on his motorcycle.

It seems that other countries are better able to recognise than is his homeland the achievements of the brave and clever soldier, influential adviser, and powerful writer who was Lawrence of Arabia.

PETER METCALFE
T E Lawrence Society
Stevenage, Hertfordshire

Royal Academy's malevolent critics

Sir: David Lister's article (13 June) concerning sculptor Rachel Whiteread's turning down membership of the "stuffy and stuffy" Royal Academy focuses on the growing - and unfair - criticism of our oldest and most venerable art organisation.

The chorus of critical abuse against the broad and healthy eclectic Summer Show forgets the value of an exhibition that does not pretend to be anything other than a mixed bag reflecting a complete range of contemporary styles. Public taste is severely appeased in a location that is in effect a shop window to the world. As many as two-thirds of exhibits are sold, so the show must be doing something right. What is right is that the meek and mighty, young and old, abstract and representational coexist in a congenial and meretricious context.

What is also overlooked by our critics - rightly identified as malevolent by RB Kitaj - is that the RA today is probably the art world's most democratic institution. It is, after all, run mostly by artists.

Compared with the Tate Gallery, for example, which is "governed" by a director and an autocratic junta of trustees, the RA has a rotating selection committee to ensure continuity with the past and open-mindedness to the future. The last thing it needs are artists of dubious talent hyped up by the media for newsworthy value.

PETER DAVIES
London W12

Authentic polenta

Sir: How I hate snobbery in relation to Italian food (Letters, 14 June).

I have lived in both Rome and Venice and have spent many holidays with Italian friends in Verona and Turin. They are certainly not precious nor snobbish about food - they simply eat what is grown and produced locally.

As for polenta, they eat it in the cooler winter and early spring months as it is so filling, usually accompanied with a heavily-seasoned meat stew - perhaps rabbit - to take account of the very bland taste of polenta. And not a char-grilled vegetable in sight.

CAROLYN WRIGHT
Benlloch, Gwynedd

Published report

Sir: Christian Wolmar ("Unselected, unaccountable and still unchallenged", 13 June) states that "many and controversial bodies such as the Funding Agency for Schools... do not even bother to produce an annual report".

Reports for the first two years of the agency's existence, 1994-95 and 1995-96, are available on request (and widely circulated to education journalists). A report on 1996-97 is in preparation and will be published shortly.

ROGER WITTS
Head of Communications
Funding Agency for Schools
York

Useful worm

Sir: Regarding your recent correspondence, "earworms" might have their uses. In Alfred Besters's science-fiction classic *The Demolished Man* (1953), the murderer inflicts one on himself as a shield against a telepathic detective.

KATE WALLER
Wolverhampton

essay

Judgment day for McDonald's

After a decade, the clash between two unemployed anarchists and the hamburger king is over. But whatever the verdict, Ronald McDonald will be left with a nasty taste, says Danny Penman

Ronald McDonald woke up this morning with a particularly fearsome grimace. It should have been a smile because a new McDonald's restaurant had just opened. Through-out today, like every other day, a new McDonald's restaurant will open every three hours somewhere on the planet. So massive is the burger chain that beef from almost 1 per cent of the world's cattle now passes through its doors to be placed between slices of bread.

All this would make Ronald McDonald beam with pleasure were it not for one small thing - McLibel - the longest trial in history. McLibel, the judgment on which will be handed down today, started out as a seemingly pre-ordained contest between two unemployed environmentalists from north London and the world's most powerful burger chain.

The bizarre trial focused on the contents of a "factsheet" produced by a group of green activists in the mid-1980s. The factsheet accused McDonald's of producing food linked to heart disease, diabetes and cancer and of abusing animals, its workers and the environment. McDonald's claims it is libellous. The "McLibel Two", Helen Steel and Dave Morris, say the allegations are true. The allegations and counter-claims have been aired in the High Court over 30 months and have been supported by nearly 40,000 pages of evidence. The seemingly endless trial has explored the inner workings of one of the world's most high profile multinationals. It has seen an explosion in green activism across the country.

When McDonald's issued the writs in 1990, Swampy was doing his GCSEs. Twyford Down was one of southern England's most treasured beauty spots and few people had even heard of the veal trade. When McLibel reached the High Court in June 1994, construction companies were engaged in "the biggest road building programme since the Romans left", a handful of campaigners were struggling to stop the veal calf trade and Shell was planning to dump the Brent Spar in the North Atlantic.

And when McDonald's finished its summing-up last December, the road-building programme was in tatters, the veal calf trade had been destroyed and Shell had been humbled by Greenpeace.

As well as mirroring the growth in the green movement, McLibel has become one of its main rallying cries. The company has become "environmental enemy number one", in the eyes of many, for the same reasons it has become such a commercial success.

McDonald's is founded on four core values: efficiency, calculability, predictability and control. Everything the company does is designed to maximise



The McLibel Two: Helen Steel and Dave Morris vs 'McDonaldization'

profit. Every unit of input, whether it's the number of steps a burger-flipper takes across the kitchen floor, or the number of dollars of ketchup on a burger, is checked and rechecked.

At McDonald's, predictability marches hand in hand with efficiency. McDonald's food may not taste good but wherever you eat it, it is no better or worse than it is anywhere else. To enhance predictability, McDonald's aims to have total control over everything it does. Only then can the company enforce its rigid, profit enhancing system. One of the company's manuals states that "grill men" have to move left to right, put out six rows of burgers, flip

the third row first, then the fourth, fifth and sixth. Only then can they move to the first two rows of burgers.

Ray Kroc, who founded the McDonald's empire, wrote that the french fry was "sacrosanct", its preparation "a ritual to be followed religiously". Or, as one former dean of the Hamburger University, where McDonald's trains its senior staff, put it: "It gets so your blood turns to ketchup."

The McLibel Two and their supporters say that the logic symbolised by multinationals such as McDonald's has imprisoned society in an "iron cage of rationality". This logic forces everyone, subconsciously, continuously, to seek new ways of enhancing efficiency, predictability and control, no matter what the cost to humanity or the environment. They call the process "McDonaldization".

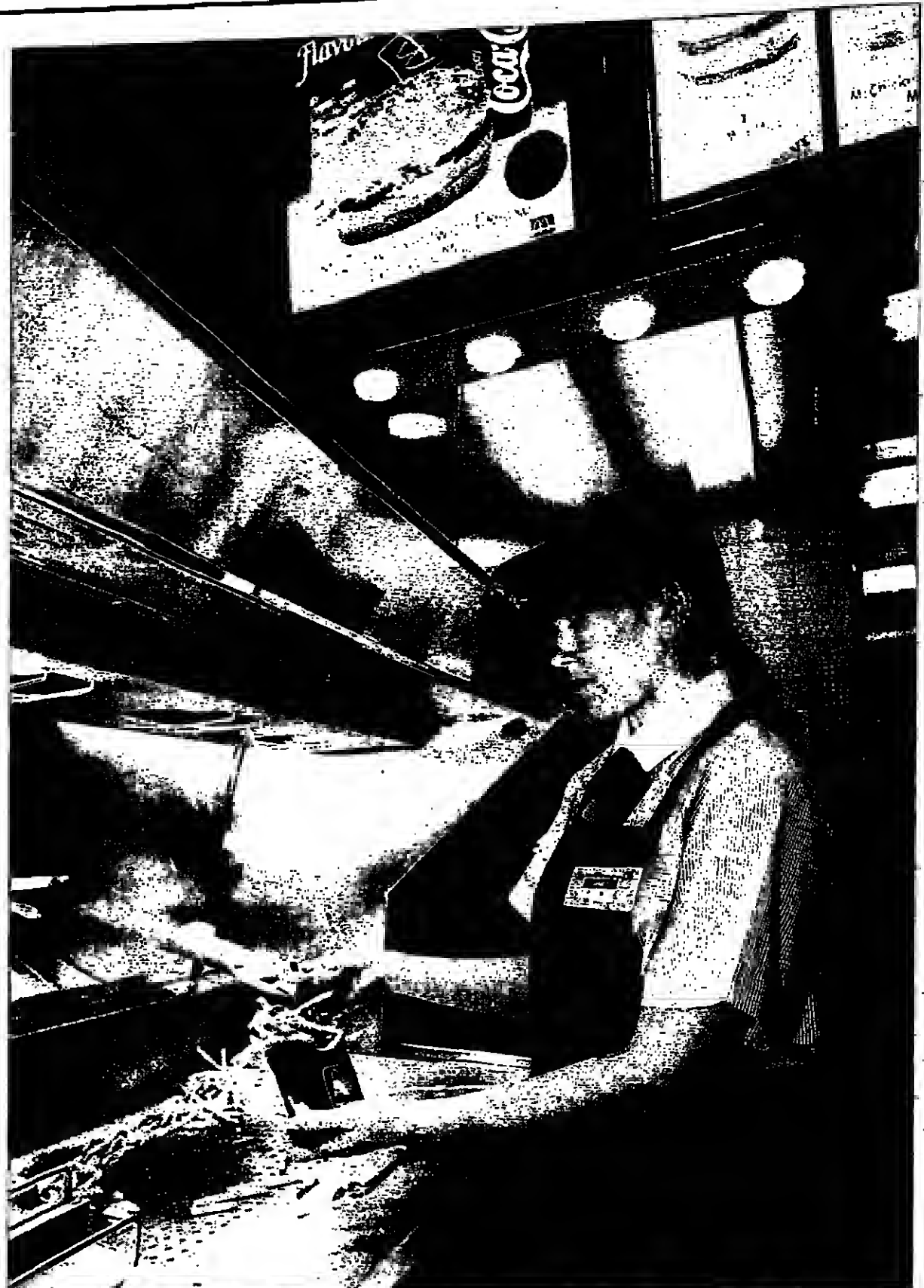
McDonaldization is no longer limited to the burger chain but has been copied by a host of enterprises, from rival fast-food chains to local government. Hotels, shopping malls and fast-food outlets around the world are indistinguishable. There's global television, global brands and global music. The only thing that is free trade, the free movement of capital and freedom of choice, so long as you accept the industrial logic underlying those principles. Professor George Ritzer, a sociologist from the University of Maryland, warns in his book, *The McDonaldization of Society*, that the logical, or "rational", system promoted by the burger chain may eventually "become a system that controls all of us".

"McDonaldization is with us now, has been with us for a while and is extending its reach throughout society," he says. That has already resulted in the largest 500 companies controlling 42 per cent of the earth's wealth. Of the biggest 100 economies, 51 are corporations, the rest are countries. Only 27 countries now have a turnover greater than the sales of Shell and Exxon combined.

The World Trade Organisation and a host of other transnational organisations are part of the apparently "rational" systems that are being created to promote the interests of multinational corporations. The health of the environment and society is not an intrinsic part of their remit. If rational (McDonaldized) systems are leading the world to disaster, as the McLibel Two and their supporters believe, what is the alternative?

The McLibel Two believe that green anarchism offers an alternative to a McDonaldized society. They are careful to draw the distinction between the popular perception of anarchy as chaos and its true meaning - which is "without government".

"It's not idealism," Ms Steel says. "It's just wanting an ideal reality. Most people in this world want a more equal, fair and caring society. That's why we're



Making it for McDonald's: its employees are schooled in 'efficiency, calculability, predictability and control'

anarchists - in the true sense of the word. We want a harmonious society in which government and corporations are abolished because they're unnecessary. It's a logical development of people not wanting to be bossed around."

To the jaded ears of high business such views probably sound naive. But they appear naive only because business has been conditioned to accept only one set of values - that of increasing profitability by enhancing efficiency, predictability and control. All else smacks of hopeless idealism. Big business and the politicians prefer to deal with reality, even if it is collapsing around their ears.

The views of Ms Steel and Mr Morris were probably irrelevant to McDonald's before the trial. Since then, they have been forced to take them very seriously. McDonald's supremacy in the marketplace and its legendary PR and marketing machine appears to have faltered when the company reached the High Court. The case was deftly turned into the most exhaustive analysis of a multinational company, its ethics and working practices ever undertaken anywhere in the world.

It proved to be a unique opportunity to cross-examine top executives from a multinational company. Normally campaigners, journalists and the public are fed with pre-packaged sound-bites. But once McDonald's was in the dock, its senior executives had to answer the questions, no matter how uncomfortable they were.

During the trial, the court heard that McDonald's employed seven private detectives from two agencies to monitor London Greenpeace, the organisation to which the McLibel Two belonged. Meetings of less than 10 people were often attended by three or four McDonald's agents. It was also revealed

that Special Branch helped McDonald's and supplied it with crucial information on the two defendants.

The court also heard that burgers were sold to the Japanese on the basis that they would make them tall, blonde and pale. But perhaps most damaging for a food company, one ex-store manager told how staff were forced to serve burgers over kitchen floors covered in raw sewage. McDonald's, however, vociferously denied the effluent was sewage.

Early in the trial, McDonald's became so concerned about the adverse publicity that it flew over senior executives from the US for "peace talks" with the McLibel Two. Once again, it failed to understand the opposition.

In a press release shortly before the trial, McDonald's had accused the McLibel Two of lying. That provided the basis for Ms Steel and Mr Morris to sue McDonald's for libel. Their action was heard concurrently with McDonald's. McDonald's had to defend the allegations it made in the press release. That ensured that the company could not just walk away from the trial when the publicity became too bad. It had to stay and fight or admit in court that it had libelled the McLibel Two. On that count at least, the two amateur lawyers had outwitted the \$30bn burger chain.

It is difficult to see how McDonald's can dig itself completely out of the hole in which it now finds itself. The company modified its case half way through the trial. It was accepted in court that the McLibel Two had nothing like the equivalent resources to defend themselves, which is a central feature of the European Convention on Human Rights' definition of a fair hearing. Nor

were they permitted a jury, McDonald's having successfully argued that parts of the evidence would be too complex. Consequently, in the eyes of many, the judgment, if it goes against Ms Steel and Mr Morris, will be almost meaningless.

But more disastrously for McDonald's, it appears to have given its greatest critics an almost unlimited supply of publicity. This paper, for one, has followed every twist of the trial. Channel 4 has transmitted a three-hour reconstruction of it. BBC1 will screen a McLibel documentary at the end of June. A book has been written about the case.

Since the start of the trial, more than 2 million copies of the offending leaflets have been distributed world-wide. A site on the World Wide Web containing details of the case has been accessed tens of millions of times. It has versions of the "What's Wrong With McDonald's" factsheet in a score of languages. All Internet users need do is to click a button and they can have an inexhaustible supply of the leaflets in the language of their choice.

Ronald McDonald's agony will not cease today. Finally, after the case has gone through the appeals procedure, when the European Court of Human Rights has passed its verdict (some time in the early part of the next century) the public, before handing over their hard cash, will still have to make their own minds up whether the allegations in the factsheet are true.

McDonald's customers will need to assess whether the company respects its workers, animals and the environment and whether its food is linked to heart disease, diabetes and cancer. By what they have revealed during the trial, the McLibel Two have made that judgment infinitely easier.

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More wit and wisdom from the Albanians

Today I am bringing you another selection of what can only be called Albanian proverbs. These are different from the proverbs we are used to. Our proverbs are normally flimsy at first sight and then turn out to have deep sense and staying power. Albanian proverbs sound pretty thoughtful at first hearing, but fade away the longer you think about them.

Try them. You won't regret it.

Give a dog a bad name, and everyone will want to buy one as a guard dog.

There is one thing called a tea spoon and another thing called a coffee spoon, but what is the difference? Especially as they are both, in fact, milk spoons?

Nobody can ever think of the name of a Portuguese composer off the top of his head.

An empty notebook is

not an empty notebook. It is already full of such things as pages and lines. The only thing missing from an "empty" notebook is human stupidity.

At the end of a concert, the mao who gets all the applause is the only mao in the orchestra who has not played a note of music all evening.

What children need is not more sex education, of which they have quite enough already, but more love education, of which they probably get none at all.

Information technology is a branch of human knowledge which says at the outset that a rigid square object is a "floppy disk" and that a soft bit of paper is "hard copy". No wonder it is not universally trusted.

In a country which has 100 per cent illiteracy, there is no problem with graffiti.



Miles Kingston

When two left-handed people meet, which hands do they shake?

It was not until man had perfected the invention of clear window glass that he set to work to invent a kind of glass you couldn't see through - frosted glass.

Whether an artist pegs

out young, or survives to a grand old age, he always manages to die exactly a hundred years before his centenary.

Nobody ever found a message in a hip flask.

If the Great Wall of China is really the only man-made object that is visible on Earth from the moon, what is it that makes London invisible?

In what language did Latin families write their family mottoes?

It is not necessary to bribe a jockey to lose a race. In any race, the majority of jockeys will lose anyway, despite the fact that they are all being paid to win.

Nobody has ever induced a bubble to go downwards.

When opening a dictionary, you never go straight to the word you want to look up.

The only journalist who can be trusted is the one who tells the truth about his expenses.

First fizzy water was called "fizzy water". Then it was called "naturally carbonated water". Now it is called "sparkling water". But still water has always been called "still water".

Nobody ever sees a waiter trying to catch a diner's eye.

There was no such thing in nature as a weed, until man came on the scene and designated certain wild flowers as weeds.

From the viewpoint of any species but man, *Homo sapiens* is the worst weed on our planet.

What is the opposite of a full moon? What is the opposite of an upright piano? What is the opposite of widow's weeds?

هلنا من الاصل

Never mind the Nerd, vote for Old Rustbucket

Ken Clarke is now the Tories' unity candidate. His extraordinary, once unthinkable, seizure of this mantle from William Hague happened even before John Redwood's sensational endorsement of him yesterday. It was made possible by one event: Hague's unforced error in warning that he would not accept as members of his Shadow Cabinet anyone who did not, like him, rule out the single currency for a decade. Redwood's backing dramatized what had already been true: that Clarke was prepared to have Tories of every shade of opinion in the Shadow Cabinet while Hague was not. While the terms of the Clarke programme were necessarily inclusive, those of Hague's were necessarily divisive.

Envisaged after the events of yesterday, life after a Hague victory. The Redwoodites would continue to harass him on the single currency because they despise Hague's formulation: if you're against the single currency in principle then why only for a decade? The Clarkeites will not close off the option of joining before the decade is up. Neither Clarke nor Redwood are prepared to serve under Hague any more than Iain Macleod or Enoch Powell were under Alec Douglas Home in 1963. Even before the Redwood pact, the consequences of not voting for Clarke as leader, at least for those MPs with a lingering sense of reality, had begun to look dire than the consequences of doing so. How much more dire now?

For, as some of Hague's supporters must now be reflecting, Ken Clarke still has the potential to be a brooding and dangerous presence in the darkness outside the Shadow Cabinet to which Hague's doctrinal rigidity would consign him. If, as is looking increasingly possible, the Government decides to sanction proportional representation for the European elections in 1999, the temptation for pro-European Tories to test the water for separation by standing on a different platform from the leadership will prove almost irresistible. The prospect of wholesale defections has doubtless been exaggerated by Labour for their own destabilising purposes. The possibility that the party under William Hague would sleepwalk towards schism and collective self-destruction isn't an exaggeration at all.

It's true that a Clarke victory doesn't of itself guarantee a stable Tory party. One right-winger, complaining before yesterday's pact about the choice between a "nerd in short trousers" and a "Heathite rustbucket", said that he was doing so not because Clarke was the strongest leader but because he would be the most vulnerable, and might be successfully challenged as early as November 1998. But this trouble-making scenario omits an important variable: the party in the country. If, under Clarke, the party is given a long overdue vote in leadership contests then Clarke's leadership could be rather more secure than the detailers hope. The constituency chairmen back Clarke already; given all their past record of loyalty to the incumbent, that support will harden like clay in the sun once he is leader.

But there is another factor, to do with the real world into which Clarke has now lured his



Donald Macintyre

Clarke may have been around for a while but his inclusive programme means any MP with a sense of reality must support him

new Shadow Chancellor designate, and which was embodied in the unthreatening Amsterdam treaty unveiled in the Commons by Tony Blair yesterday. The new Prime Minister may just be changing the terms of trade on Europe. Compared with the extravagantly integrationist hopes of the Germans and the Benelux countries just a few months ago, the Inter-governmental Conference has had a modest, pragmatic outcome. In which Blair, even allowing for a little post-summit euphoria in his circle, appears to have played a genuinely influential role. He did it by all accounts by being co-operatively *communautaire* — using his lawyer's mind to redraft texts, for example — when it didn't hurt British objectives, as well as by showing a Thatcherite stubbornness when it was necessary. And it isn't, as John Major found yesterday, easy to kick up a storm about the use of qualified majority voting over research and development or anti-fraud measures. Even on defence, the one issue which Major made most of yesterday, Blair doesn't seem to have given much of significance. He insisted that the primary importance of Nato to its European Union members was written into the text; and the vague reference to the possibility that the Western European Union might sometime be "integrated" into the EU isn't much different from the idea of the WEU as a potential defence "component" of the EU envisaged in the Maastricht treaty signed by John Major.

The point of all this is first that it's painfully obvious Blair isn't the Euro-pussy some of Hague's allies, such as Michael Howard and Peter Lilley, wanted to paint him. And second that public opinion may actually start to reflect the idea that making deals can work as well as stopping them. In that event, the Clarke-Redwood pact may be one for the times, recognising, as it does, that you can't build a political programme exclusively on the empty proposition that Blair is determined to sell out British sovereignty whenever he can. Hague has talked bravely during the campaign of "repatriating" the powers which he assumes fondly Blair will give away. The Clarke-Redwood text emphasises, in terms that Blair wouldn't disagree with, the need for a liberal Europe of flexible markets, and that both men agree on everything except the single currency. On which, if it came to it, a Tory Cabinet or shadow Cabinet would be allowed to divide as Harold Wilson's did in 1975. Is it even just possible that some of the poison of Europe is at last about to seep out of the British body politic?

Not, of course, if Hague wins tonight. One of the problems is that many Tory MPs think that this is as small as their party in the Commons can get. Normally in a leadership contest there are enough MPs in threatened marginal seats to think about the voters when they make their choice. Having been hammered in the election most Tory MPs think they are now in safe seats. The irony is that the one way in which they could be reduced still further is to vote for Hague and a splintered party. Voting for Clarke and Redwood may not be a sufficient condition of saving the Tory party but it is certainly a necessary one.

Inexplicably Popular Cliches Dept. Listening to "Yesterday in Parliament" on Radio 4's *Today* programme, I heard the new Solicitor General, Charles Falconer, making his maiden speech in the House of Lords. The genial Falconer said he'd been happy to say goodbye to law practice and even happier that he would never again have to face smart-alec broadsides from his judicial colleagues. But now, as he surveyed the faces in the chamber, he realised they were precisely the kind of top legal brains from which he was escaping... "I thought on that day," he concluded, "you can run but you can't hide."

I was in the bath at the time, and I thrashed the floating duck with a loofah in a fury. Has this morose phrase become mandatory among politicians? There, for example, was little William Hague in the Sunday papers, sounding a teeny-weeny bit out of touch with recent events as he warned Tony Blair: "Within a few days you will begin to face the full fire of a united Conservative voice. You will not be able to hide from this voice. You will no longer be able to run away from this voice. It will be shouted loud and clear from every rooftop in the land." I thought the only thing being shouted lately from every rooftop in the land is that the Conservative voice, unified or not, should off for the time being. But that running/hiding interface — it turns up everywhere now, as the cliché du jour of the pompous, the bullying and the self-righteous. And it never works.

News came yesterday that US police had tracked down a Pakistani gunman who killed two people at the CIA's Virginia HQ in 1993. What did the State Department have to say about the arrest? It was "an important victory for US efforts to combat terrorism, and a message to the world



Joe Louis and Lawrence Eagleburger: you can run but you just can't hide from an abominable cliché



Jim Crace: apposite quotes gain nods of recognition

that terrorists have no place to run and no place to hide" — except, obviously, Asia Minor for four years. Lawrence Eagleburger, US Secretary of State in 1992, announced thus his intention of getting tough with Serbian war criminals: "They can run but they cannot hide." There followed a period of diplomatic silence in which nobody ran, nobody hid and nobody got accused of anything. Both American threats harked back to Ronald Reagan's warning to international terrorists in 1983, after a TWA jet was hijacked, that the US "had sent a message to terrorists everywhere: 'You can run but you can't hide'". Where did he get it from? According to my sources, it started with Joe Louis, the boxer, who said it about an opponent, Billy Conn, in a heavyweight championship fight in 1946, shortly before knocking him senseless.

My theory is that this tedious and obviously false phrase derives from Francis Thompson's gorgeous poem "The Hound of Heaven", about the all-seeing eye of God, published in the early 1890s ("I fed him down the night and down the day... and in the mist of tears/hid from him and under running laughter") but whatever its provenance, I simply can't stand to hear it any more. Anyone using it henceforth will be hunted down by police

with tracker dogs. You can hide but... Oh shut up.

Andrew Billen, the *Observer's* star interviewer for the past seven years, who has departed for the *Evening Standard*, wrote a reflective piece in last Sunday's paper about the perils of letting



Greta Scacchi — by no means unattractive

your interviewee get under your skin. Nothing is to be gained, says the coldly professional Billen, from having the relationship between interrogator and victim compromised by any degree of, er, closeness. He then tells the frankly sweat-inducing story of the afternoon he spent with what he coyly describes as "one of the most beautiful actresses in the world" — how she took him up to her bedroom, discussed screen nudity, explained (with, as it were, colour slides) the sexual positions she was persuaded to adopt by nasty directors, took him downstairs, cooked him pasta and indicated that he should, how shall I put this, stick around...

Billen does not give the lady's name away. But his fans will recall with clarity his interview in May 1995 with Greta Scacchi, the far-from-plain actress famous for preferring to act without the encumbrance of clothing. Looking at Billen's interview now, one sees it as a

The critics fall for the novelist's scholarly epigraphs every time... you couldn't make it up

john walsh

masterful bit of editing, in which Ms Scacchi's withings are interpreted as a personal frenzy of irritation with directors. Two years on, we get the real details: how she explained the angles at which her breasts fell in a scene, the "bat's squeak of flirtation" he felt coming from her, her invitation to stay, his making an excuse and leaving. Taken separately, the two pieces are cool, analytical, objective. Put together, they amount to a seduction scene that has had the rest of the *Male Interviewers' XI* groaning: "Andrew — how could you?"

The Birmingham novelist Jim Crace has been picking up rave reviews for his new novel, *Quarantine*, an extraordinary re-imagining of the 40 days Christ spent in the wilderness being tempted by the Devil (or, in Crace's re-telling, tempted by a satanic fellow pilgrim). Reviewers have dwelt especially on the minute detail with which Crace describes the bleak terrain of Judea in AD20 or so, and his love of obscure words. Some even suspect that he may have had the nerve to make up some — and quite right, too. He invented lots of them, like "tarbovy" and "swaggy" and "heddles" and "aggy" ... So it is with relief that reviewers have fallen upon the epigraph at the start of the book, a solid-sounding quotation from *The Limits of Morality* by Ellis Warwood and Professor Michael Soule (Ecco Press, New Jersey, 1993): "An ordinary man of average weight and fitness embarking on a total fast — that is, a fast during which he refuses both his food and drink — could not expect to live for more than 30 days."

Many critics seemed familiar with the work. The *Times* referred to "the scientific evidence" of "a 1993 medical study on mortality". The *Times Literary Supplement* likewise homed in on the epigraph "from a physiological treatise". Sorry chaps, it's neither. It's a complete fiction. All of Crace's four previous novels have carried epigraphs and they've all been fake as well. As novelists sometimes do, he's made it all up. *Continuum* featured a helpfully apposite quote from the *Historiae* of Ptolemy ("There and beyond is the seventh continent — seven peoples, seven masters, seven seas. And its business is trade and superstition") about whose works critics nodded familiarly. *Arctica* starts with a quote from the *Tristram* of one Emilie Dell'Ova, whom one American critic described as "this sadly neglected apocryphal". *The Gift of Stones* opens with a whiffy rumination from *Digs and Dimensions: Memoirs of an Excavationist* (1927) by Sir Harry Penn-Butler. Reviewing *The Gift of Stones*, Sir Frank Kermode mentioned the epigraph in passing, and its author, old "Harry Penn-Butler" — casually dropping the "Sir", as knights do when addressing each other.

"Every time, four or five critics fall for it and pretend intimacy with the work," confesses a not-very-shamefaced Crace. "They embroider and invent, they know more about the books than I do, and I made them up..."

The puritans would purge the hippies

The masters now are not of the liberal generation. Sex 'n' drugs are out, says Paul Valley

It is not just the drugs. Dr Miriam Stoppard has landed herself in trouble with New Labour. Yesterday she found herself under attack by one of Jack Straw's underlings over her suggestion that eight-year-olds should be given positive information about the use of cannabis. "People smoke marijuana because it makes them feel happy," the tots should be told, according to her latest book, *Questions Children Ask*.

The good doctor, who combines agony auntishness with best-selling advice on health and parenthood, would like to see the law on cannabis reviewed. She is now working on *The Drug Users' Guide*, an instruction manual outlining to youngsters the safest methods of drug-taking, which she describes as a "how to take drugs safely and how not to die" book. She was swiftly lambasted by the Home Office minister George Howarth. "Drugs devastate those who take them, their families and their communities," he said. "I refuse to accept that drugs have become part of growing up. I don't believe it's helpful for prominent figures to make these sort of statements."

It was not the only such row. A consultant psychiatrist who prescribes heroin on the NHS to addicts at his clinic was attacked in similar terms yesterday when he opined that nowadays it is those youngsters who refrained from drug

use who were the deviants. The comments of Dr John Marks were branded as "dangerous" by his local Labour MP who rejoices in the name of Derek Twigg. "This is totally out-of-order," the MP fulminated. The Labour Party was opposed to legalisation "in any form".

Indeed. But I reckon it was the sex which really got up the New Labour. New Puritan noses. "We must learn to trust our children," Dr Stoppard volubly told a *Daily Telegraph* interviewer. "My sons got used to talking about sex early on. Every one of them has been to me with really intimate stuff. I me with really intimate stuff, I mean *intimate*," she said, and went on to recount the tale of how she was sitting at her kitchen table one day when her 17-year-old brought his girlfriend home and promptly took her off to the guest room for the night. "Well, I certainly didn't want them to have sex in the garden," Dr Stoppard reflected. So she restricted her reaction to delivering a lecture on contraception over breakfast the next morning.

A generation gap is opening up in British public life and it is not between Dr Stoppard and her offspring. Rather it is between the children of the



Sixties whose post-hippie liberalism now dominates the nation's personal values and the sons of the Seventies whose new puritanism is setting the tone for our political life. Marijuana is only a touchstone in this. Dr Stoppard, of course, has smoked it herself though she has not, of course, used it for ages. Indeed she "only ever smoked it at parties two or three times. One of the reasons I didn't go on was because it didn't seem to have much effect on me. Because I didn't smoke, maybe I didn't inhale, so it never made me feel woozy." No, it must have been the Incredible String Band album which did that. Or perhaps it was something to do with the shifting interior moral

landscape of the beanbag. By contrast those who were at university in the decade which followed Dr Stoppard's sojourn, like most of the original New Labour modernisers, obviously take their lead from Tony Blair. Avoiding the Clinton elephant trap ("I experimented with marijuana, but I didn't inhale"), the head of the New Labour New Model Army quipped: "I never tried marijuana, but if I had, I would have inhaled." Ascetic yet virile, you see: very Cromwellian.

Not that everyone in New Labour is so clear-cut. Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, is now quiet on the subject but it is only a few months since she declared that cannabis was

"relatively harmless" compared to alcohol and suggested it might be time for a royal commission to look at the question again. (Her sporting colleague Tony Banks once suggested something similar.) "The poor lady stepped out of line and was rapped over the knuckles," Dr Stoppard recalls, "but I think she had a sensible point of view. Mine would be very close to that."

The Home Secretary, of course, believes no such thing. I remember Jack Straw at university. He left just as I arrived in those heady days of sit-ins and Santana so I have no accurate recollection of his attitude to drugs. Perhaps it was that of the Hard Left moralist: the historical objective of a movement representing the workers and the poor is to improve their conditions and not to drag them down into decadence and unemployment.

Yes, perhaps that was it. Which would explain why Mr Straw is now so often under attack for peddling "saloon bar prejudices" in the views of old liberals like Roy Jenkins who was Home Secretary throughout the most permissive of those years. Jenkins decries his successor's populist approach

to law and order, insisting he has a duty to lead public opinion and not follow it.

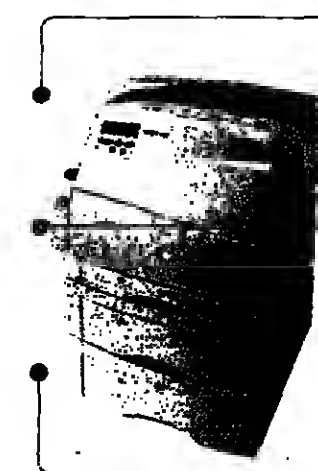
But other liberals of that era have reformed. "My generation were too tolerant," Philip Bean, Professor of Criminal Studies at Loughborough University, has said. "We are reaping the whirlwind now." Holland and Spain, which pioneered liberalisation, have found that a rise in the use of ecstasy and heroin and accompanying social misery followed the decriminalisation of "soft" drugs.

The link between drugs and crime is well established, Mr Howarth insisted yesterday. "There are all sorts of difficulties associated with cannabis abuse. I admit they are associated with heavy use rather than occasional use, but cannabis is a gateway drug. Some of those who start with cannabis can go on to harder drugs."

Doubtless Dr Stoppard's parents would have approved. Orthodox Jews from the poorer side of Newcastle, their approach was highly repressive. So unprepared was the young Miriam for her first period that when it arrived she assumed she had cancer. And when they passed a cinema poster in the street depicting the buxom cleavage of Jane Russell, Miriam's father put his hand over her eyes. Thus was Cromwell damned to everlasting fame. Mr Straw's children had best avert their gaze before the parental fingers descend.

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Gas bills to tumble as BG loses battle

Ofgas victory will slash revenues by £380m

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

British Gas's high-profile campaign against proposed cuts in its pipeline charges ended in a spectacular defeat yesterday after the Monopolies & Mergers Commission hacked the industry regulator.

The decision will slash the company's transportation charges by 21 per cent and knock an average of £29 off this year's domestic bills.

The MMC's surprise conclusions, accepted by the company, will reduce BG's annual revenues by about £380m until 2002, hitting profits and shuffling dividends to shareholders by up to one-half.

City analysts predicted the dividend this year would plunge to between 5p and 9p, compared with 14.5p in 1996. Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, described the MMC report as a "vindication" of every basic demand made by Ofgas since the original proposals were launched last May. BG, then British Gas, had accused her of mounting the "highest smash-and-grab raid in history".

The company had warned up to 10,000 jobs could go from TransCo, the pipeline division, putting customer safety at risk. Some 35,000 small investors, or "Sids", had written to Ofgas to complain at the company's request.

A jubilant Ms Spottiswoode yesterday accused the company of crying wolf. She said: "We always said it was not good to fight a big press campaign to win the hearts and minds of the public. I never understood why they did that."

But the predicted share price turmoil failed to materialise. BG shares rose 6.5p to 219p after some City analysts raised their dividend forecasts. They pointed to the extra £500m of operating expenses BG had extracted from the MMC over five years compared with Ofgas's figure of £6.6bn.

Simon Flowers, head of utility research at NatWest Securities, said: "I don't think this is a total victory for Ofgas. They went back to the MMC with even tougher demands and were kicked into touch. But Ofgas has won a significant victory in other areas."

There was no sign yesterday of the two directors closely associated with the decision to call in the MMC - Dick Giordano, chairman, and Philip Rogerson, deputy chairman. David Varney, BG chief executive since last year, admitted to being "frankly disappointed" with some of the conclusions but said they were manageable. "I think this presents tough challenges but it represents the umpire's verdict," he said. The MMC probe cost the company £10m.

The report sided with Ofgas on the central issue of how much BG's asset base was worth. The MMC has cut the asset valuation for regulatory purposes from the £17bn in the company's accounts to £11.6bn, an even lower figure than Ofgas had suggested.

BG will be able to earn a 7 per cent return on these assets, implying a cut of 21 per cent in pipeline charges, which account for 43 per cent of domestic bills. For the four years from April 1998 charges will drop by 2 per cent below inflation.

The cuts translate into a drop of £29 for an average household gas bill of £325, against the £28 in Ofgas's original proposals. By 2001-2002 the annual saving will rise to £54.

Centrica, the demerged British Gas supply business, is obliged to pass these savings on to customers, though other independent suppliers taking part in domestic competition trials may use some of the cut to boost their profit margins. Neil Lambert, joint general manager of Calorix, said: "In broad terms we will pass it on but I can't guarantee that every customer will get the same impact."

Caroline Harper, managing director of Amerasia Hess Gas, said: "I'm going to look at my gas price and my transportation costs and my competitors and then make a decision."

But confusion mounted last night over how much of the savings consumers would see when the price cuts, delayed from April by the MMC investigation, are implemented this October. Ms Spottiswoode accused BG of "clutching at straws" by suggesting it would boost its revenues by passing on some £100m of additional charges from last year which it decided not to levy on suppliers. This would reduce the £29 bill cut by about £4.

"They're trying to make their figures look better than they really are. It's quite false. There's no agreement about when that £100m will be recovered," said Ms Spottiswoode.

Mr Varney would not speculate about job cuts on top of the 4,500 since the beginning of 1996 which reduced TransCo's workforce to 16,000.

How Spottiswoode won the regulatory battle with BG

"This is one of the biggest smash and grab raids ever. This is a very black day for Sid," Philip Rogerson, deputy chairman, British Gas, 13 May, 1996

What BG rejected	Initial price cut	What BG accepted
20%	21%	
£28	Domestic saving	£29
RPI-2.5%	Future price cuts	RPI-2%
7%	Cost of capital	7%
£12.4bn	Value of assets	£11.6bn
£4bn	Capital Expenditure	£4.1bn
£6.6bn	Operating Expenditure	£7.1bn

"This is a tough settlement but, provided we can continue to improve our efficiency, one which we believe will enable us manage and finance our business effectively," David Varney, chief executive, BG 18 June, 1997



Ofgas' Clare Spottiswoode, magnanimous in victory: "This is a vindication of our philosophical position. BG had every right to go to the MMC because there were some very large numbers at stake but I don't expect anyone to resign as a result."



BG's David Varney, looking to the future: "I hope I am the more acceptable face of British Gas. This is the umpire's verdict and we will work with it. The MMC has provided an opportunity for both sides to move forward with honour."

A big grin but no gloating

Michael Harrison

The Laughing Regulator was in flying form and why not? After 12 months of hand-to-hand combat with the old enemy, Clare Spottiswoode had triumphed. But was she about to gloat in her moment of triumph? Would she call for the head of Dick Giordano?

Not a bit of it. She may have been wearing her trademark Cheshire Cat grin, but the director general of gas supply was the very model of magnanimity. Yes, BG had had every right to go to the MMC, even though she could have told them they were on a hiding to

nothing, and no, Ms Spottiswoode did not now expect anyone to resign.

She was dressed for the occasion in orange jacket, beige three-quarter length skirt and multi-coloured floral silk scarf. A brilliant image on an equally bright morning for the forces of regulation.

But her tone was more in sorrow than anger. BG might be big but it had turned its guns on the wrong target. Instead of trying to win the PR battle, it should have spent more time winning the hearts and minds of the MMC panel. That had been the focus of Ms Spottiswoode and it had paid dividends, something that BG cannot yet

promise. Not that it had been a triumph for Ofgas, of course, merely "a vindication of our philosophical approach". Now was the time to build bridges and get down to the business of delivering value for shareholders and lower bills for customers.

Over at the nearby Institute of Civil Engineers, the venue BG had chosen to present its response, the atmosphere was in keeping with the solemn marble-hall surroundings. David Varney, "the acceptable face of BG", had begun the day by being turned over on the *Today* programme and now he was beginning to show the strain. His regulation dark blue suit jacket

cast aside in favour of the shirt-sleeves approach. BG's chief executive rallied through a largely incomprehensible guide to the MMC report and then, just as incomprehensibly, declared it a score draw.

The talk was also of turning over new leaves and moving forward, not with an air of triumphalism but "with honour", recognising the MMC had created an opportunity for both sides. But had it all been worthwhile? Every bit of it. Given its time over again, BG would still have plumped for the MMC. Not that Mr Varney had got all he wanted. "You don't see me leaping for joy," he said. "We didn't Mr Varney, we didn't."

Arnault set to increase stake

Andrew Yates

Bernard Arnault's French luxury goods group LVMH is prepared to increase its stake in food and drinks giant Grand Metropolitan to 10 per cent or more in the battle to scupper GrandMet's £23bn merger with Guinness.

He wants to build up a significant stake to exert maximum pressure on GrandMet to force it to consider a proposal to merge the LVMH drinks group Moët Hennessy with the spirits divisions of both Guinness and GrandMet. Mr Arnault surprised GrandMet by paying £27.4m for a 0.25 per cent stake in the group late on Tuesday afternoon.

The combative Frenchman also hopes to increase his negotiating position in a legal battle with Guinness over the fate of Moët Hennessy. LVMH claims the merger involves a change of ownership clause, which gives it the automatic right to repurchase Guinness's 34 per cent stake in Moët Hennessy and lucrative worldwide distribution contracts at a knock-down price.

LVMH has taken its case to French arbitrators. The legal battle could take months and GrandMet and Guinness may be forced to settle out of court to push through the merger.

LVMH is unlikely to buy any more shares in the immediate future. But it is expected that Mr Arnault will gradually increase his stake in GrandMet over the next few months if its price weakens. GrandMet's shares rose 5p yesterday to 586p on news that LVMH has started to buy the stock. Mr Arnault owns a 14 per cent stake in Guinness but is under a commitment not to raise this further.

The GrandMet-Guinness merger is also likely to face a full enquiry by the European Commission. Competition commissioner Karel Van Miert is expected to announce tomorrow that he has decided to launch a four-month investigation into whether the deal raises serious competition concerns. The US regulatory authorities are also likely to take a long hard look

Fourth director leaves as Toad tries to save costs

Sameena Ahmad

Toad, the loss-making car security company chaired by biotechnology millionaire Chris Evans, has lost its fourth director in five months. Martin Cassey, research and development director, left yesterday to "concentrate on other business interests including projects with Dr Chris Evans".

The resignation, which insiders say has been the "only amicable" stepdown at this company, was believed to be because Toad needed to save costs. Mr Cassey earned £51,620 a year plus a car and benefits. He is on six months' notice and has no options. "The board was too top heavy," said insiders.

The parting follows the resignation of Charles Parker, chief executive, in February following "irreconcilable differences of style" after only 27 days in the job. In March, Kevin Turner, managing director, and Iain Brown, who ran the international side, left as part of a central overhead review promised by Kevin Gray, chief executive.

Mr Evans, who is Toad's non-

executive chairman, said he wanted a more hands-on role and would run the research business himself.

"I've entrusted this company to other people and it hasn't worked out. It's my penance. I'll do the technical side myself - I'm not a bad scientist." However, analysts said the cuts showed Toad was still under financial pressure. In February the group said sales had fallen "substantially below budget".

But Mr Evans remained ambitious. "I plan to restructure Toad. I want it to be the world's leading car security company." The group will launch an advanced immobiliser this week and there are rumours of a string of acquisitions and deals over the next few weeks, including a car security contract with a US group which could be worth £50m in sales.

Mr Evans is also expected to announce a range of new research technologies outside the car security field in aerospace, telecoms and satellite via partnerships with technology companies. Mr Cassey is likely to advise Mr Evans on these projects.

Sales surge puts pressure on rates

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

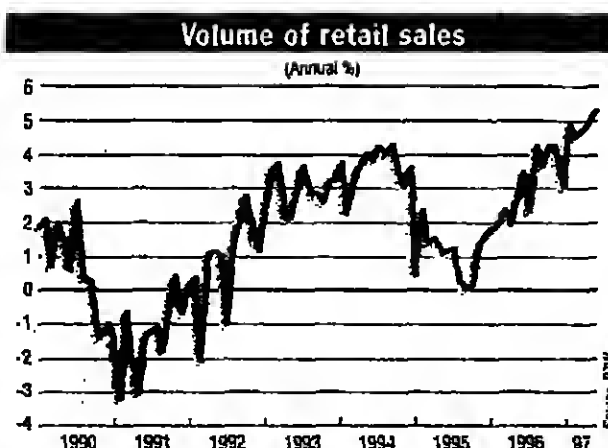
Post-election euphoria, warmer weather and the first of the building society share windfalls all got the credit for soaring high street sales in May. Whatever the explanation, an unexpected surge in spending revealed by new figures yesterday has increased the pressure for further interest rate rises this summer.

Minutes of the only monetary meeting between Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, at the start of May showed the Bank was still seeking a half-point increase in the cost of borrowing to keep inflation on target.

Interest rates have since risen by that much to 6.5 per cent. But analysts said yesterday the Bank would need to push them still higher, even though Mr George had admitted there was a dilemma over rates because of the strong pound.

They drew some comfort from the Chancellor's statement in the minutes, released yesterday, that he "was determined to take action in the forthcoming Budget that would encourage more balanced economic growth".

This was read as a signal of



planned tax increases to take some of the pressure off interest rates and the pound, easing the policy dilemma. But it did not alter the general conclusion that base rates could reach 7 per cent later this year.

The volume of retail sales surged by 1.1 per cent in May according to official figures yesterday. Their year-on-year growth climbed to 5.3 per cent, the highest since July 1985.

"There is a palpable post-election effect evident in the data, with retailers reporting a bumper bank holiday weekend immediately after the poll," said John O'Sullivan, an economist at NatWest Markets. Others suggested the Al-

liance & Leicester flotation had had an impact. A quarter of the free shares were sold at the end of April.

"Whatever the reason, consumers are very confident at the moment. These are not freak figures," said James Barry at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. There were strong gains during the month in most categories, with the biggest jump in household goods. Sales of these, clothing and non-store retailing, mainly mail order, have all reached annual growth rates above 8 per cent.

Food sales are more sluggish in year-on-year terms. But they have picked up sharply in recent months and jumped 1.2

per cent in May. The consolation in the figures was that there was no fresh sign of a pick-up in inflation on the high street. Price competition between retailers still appears to be pretty stiff.

Even the City economists who have emphasised the strong pound and sluggish growth in industry as a reason for not increasing interest rates conceded that yesterday's figures had tipped the balance.

"This surge in sales will alter the policy calculation," said Simon Briscoe, chief economist at Nikko Europe.

Michael Saunders at Salomon Brothers warned that consumers could find themselves in the firing line for tax increases next month.

He said the could help ease fears that the current combination of policy was boosting the exchange rate and favouring consumers at the expense of exporters.

But few analysts reckoned the Government's manifesto pledges would allow it to raise the tax burden enough to take all the inflationary steam out of the economy.

The evidence that fears of excessive consumer spending growth are coming true took shares lower yesterday. The FTSE 100 index ended just over 25 points lower at 4,657.

Nationwide bars all new accounts

Nic Cicutti
Personal Finance Editor

Nationwide Building Society, the largest remaining mutual lending institution, yesterday closed its doors to all new accounts in a bid to shut out "carpetbaggers", gambling that it may be forced into a stock market flotation.

The society's unprecedented move comes just days after it was forced to double to £1,000 the minimum opening levels on its accounts, a move it said was due to the competitive interest rates paid to savers.

However, a spokesman admitted yesterday that a level of new openings, running at more than 25,000 a day throughout Nationwide's 650-plus branches, was no longer sustainable.

"We obviously regret this decision, but it is very important to us that we continue to look after our existing customers and provide them with the service they expect."

"This was not possible as long as our staff were forced to

deal with large numbers of new account openings. We are also disappointed because we know that among those who are speculating, there are also many genuine new customers who want to come to us precisely because we are a building society and are committed to remaining mutual."

The situation was likely to continue at least until its annual meeting on 24 July. Existing customers are unaffected and will be able to continue making payments or open new accounts, he added.

Nationwide's tribulations come as members vote to elect a new board. For the first time, the society faces a challenge from a group of five candidates self-styled Members for Conversion, who hope their election - or even a close vote - will force a change of policy.

The society has refused to consider the option, even as mutuals such as Alliance & Leicester, Halifax, Woolwich and Northern Rock have either converted to banks or are about to.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low
FTSE 100	4657.00	-25.20	-0.5	4783.10	4056.50
FTSE 250	4516.20	-21.80	-0.5	4729.40	4482.00
FTSE 350	2256.70	-12.00	-0.5	2312.80	2017.90
FTSE SmallCap	3270.52	-9.30	-0.4	3374.20	2178.29
FTSE All-Share	2213.78	-11.54	-0.5	2266.11	1989.78
New York	7710.11	-50.67	-0.7	7782.04	5032.94
Dow Jones	20487.65	-95.81	-0.5	20681.07	17303.85
Hong Kong	14203.88	-103.20	-0.7	14990.90	12056.17
Frankfurt	3730.27	-11.21	-0.3	3765.11	2848.77

INTEREST RATES

Short sterling*

Year	Rate (%)
1980	5.50
1981	6.00
1982	6.25
1983	6.50
1984	7.00

UK medium gilt

Year	Rate (%)
1980	6.5
1981	6.6
1982	6.7
1983	6.8
1984	6.9

US long bond

Year	Rate (%)
1980	9.0
1981	9.1
1982	9.2
1983	9.3
1984	9.4

*10% flat below average

†January 15, 1985

Money Market Rates

Index	1 Month	1 Year
UK	5.47	7.05
US	5.62	6.12
Japan	0.47	0.69
Germany	3.05	3.25

Bond Yields *

Index	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Bond (%)	Year Age	Long Bond	(%)Year Age
UK	5.47	7.05	7.13	8.10	7.19	9.24
US	5.62	6.12	6.43	6.88	6.12	7.05
Japan	0.47	0.69	2.38	3.28	-	-
Germany	3.05	3.25	5.73	6.61	6.52	-

*Benchmark Indices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Assets	Price (p)	Change (p)	Change (%)	Falls	Price (p)	Change (p)	Change (%)
Alstom	45.8	3.5	8.1	Bright Sky Broad	521.5	45	7.9
Alstom Fisher Gp	265	13.5	5.4	80th Shop Ind	122.5	6.5	5.8
Coca-Cola	293.5	9.5	4.9	98A Brown	250	13	5.0

CURRENCIES

£/\$

Day	Index
F	1.6397
S	1.6400
M	1.6350
T	1.6300
W	1.6250
Th	1.6300

£/DM

Day	Index
F	2.2318
S	2.2350
M	2.2800
T	2.2850
W	2.3300
Th	2.3384

£/¥

Day	Index
F	185.528
S	185.687
M	180.00
T	180.00
W	180.00
Th	180.00

Source: Two exchange rates and US Dollar Index at 100 basis.

Pound

Yesterday's Change: Year Ago

	Yesterday's Change	Year Ago
\$ (London)	1.6397	+0.17c 1.5438
\$ (New York)	1.6400	+0.03c 1.5440
DM (London)	2.2318	-0.00p 2.3384
¥ (London)	185.528	-0.17 185.687
\$ Index	100.0	-0.2 95.6

Dollar

Yesterday's Change: Year Ago

	Yesterday's Change	Year Ago
\$ (London)	0.6089	-0.06 0.6478
\$ (New York)	0.6088	-0.01 0.6510
DM (London)	1.7270	-0.60p 1.5146
¥ (London)	111.190	-¥0.23 107.975
\$ Index	102.3	-0.2 96.7

OTHER INDICATORS

	Yesterday	Day's Change	1820	Index	Latest Tr Yr Ago	Next Figs
DM Brent \$s	17.71	+4.06	18.20			
Gold \$s	340.85	-1.2	385.50	APR	159.4 - 0.38p	150.9 8 Jul
\$s	292.37	-1.14	295.50	GDP	12.2p	107.0 25 Jul

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Bass bac

Andrew Yates

How the French

clamped the merger

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business

Gencor to raise \$1bn through Billiton split

Magnus Grimond

Gencor, the South African mining giant, yesterday announced plans to spin off its non-precious metals interests in a \$7bn group centred on the Billiton operations acquired from Shell two years ago for \$1.2bn. The group, which plans to raise at least \$1bn in an international share placing next month, will have its headquarters in London and qualify for entry to the FTSE 100 index as one of the UK's top 50 companies.

However, the current group's 27 per cent stake in the platinum interests controlled by Lonrho, the London-based mining and trading combine, will be retained by the rump of Gencor,

which will remain based in South Africa.

Billiton, which will have 65 per cent of its assets in South Africa, will be one of the world's largest producers of aluminium, the leading producer of ferrochrome and the biggest exporter of steam coal. The new group is also expected to become the world's fourth-biggest producer of nickel following a deal announced yesterday by Gencor to merge its nickel interests with the Australian group QNI to form a new group capitalised at around \$1.7bn.

Brian Gilbertson, who will stay on as Gencor's chairman temporarily, will become chairman and chief executive of the new group. He will be joined by

Mick Davis, who will move from being Gencor's finance director to an executive director at Billiton. Yesterday he said the decision to split had been in gestation for two years: "We had planned an internationalisation of the group and it became clear if we were going to compete with the majors we had to have access to the international capital markets."

The \$1bn or more being raised was around three to four times what Billiton could have raised in South Africa, he said.

The authorities had effectively lifted the country's tight exchange control regulations for the demerger, which has been cleared by the central bank, the South African Reserve Bank.

The group had some \$3bn of potential projects at varying stages of realisation to spend the new money on.

These include the expansion of the Worsley alumina refinery in Western Australia and the Mozal aluminium smelter in Mozambique, both of which are expected to proceed later this year.

There were also "exciting opportunities for a mining company" in privatised ventures in South America, Mr Davis said.

Pro forma profits for the new group, which will start off with minimal gearing, would have been \$698m in the nine months to March, compared with \$921m for the previous 12 months.

Old Maxwell stationery business merges with Straker



Hear ye: Robert Maxwell's old stationery printing business, Oyez, is merging with Straker, the office supplies group, in preparation for a £80m flotation on the London main market next spring. Eight directors, four from each company, will sit on Oyez Straker's new board. They will control around 30 per cent of the group with a combined stake worth £26.4m.

David Cox (left), who led the management buy-out from Maxwell in 1989, will be chief executive. Joining him with around 6 per cent of the combined group each will be Hugh Sear (right), Straker's CEO, as executive chairman and Jonathan Straker, deputy chairman, who will be development director. The combined company has sales of £70m.

NPC brings flotation forward

Andrew Yates

National Parking Corporation, the biggest car-parking group in Britain, has brought forward plans to join the stock market in a move which will value the company at £750m. The company is considering launching a flotation as early as next summer.

"We have accelerated our flotation plans," said Bob Mackenzie, chief executive, "it would be a good time to come to the market next summer, after our year end."

The main beneficiaries will be the two founders, Sir Don Gosling and Ronald Hobson, who own nearly three-quarters of the business. Their combined stakes will be worth £500m. The pair netted £30m between them yesterday when NPC announced the payment of a £41.7m special dividend along with its full-year results.

NPC announced record profits of £46.1m for the year to last March, a rise of 83 per cent. The dividend is equivalent to 35p per share. Mr Mackenzie has been grooming NPC for a float since being appointed two years ago, shortly after talks to sell the business to a consortium headed by Prudential for £700m fell through. He had planned to bring NPC to the market in 1999 but his restructuring programme is going better than expected. Last year NPC sacked 300 workers as part of a shake-up of its car park portfolio.

NPC plans to launch a £15m advertising campaign to promote its Green Flag subsidiary, the third-largest emergency breakdown service.

After closing its French business last year NPC is spending £7.4m upgrading and expanding its base in Leeds.

Time to stop banking on the financial sector's rise

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

The strong run in banking shares this year has helped the FTSE 100 index scale new heights, but analysts are divided about the sector's prospects, particularly in the wake of the débacle at NatWest. According to the bulls, the outlook remains good, supported by a benign economic environment of low inflation and low interest rates, which reduces bad debt provisions and improves earnings quality.

That has been one of the driving forces of the sector's dramatic outperformance of the rest of the market in recent years, because investors have been prepared to accept a lower risk premium for holding the shares. There has also been a cyclical rise in profits and the perception that the management of banks has improved.

The industry's fundamentals are sound. While consumer borrowing growth is running at an annualised rate of 12 per cent, overall bank lending is expanding at around half that, equivalent to the increase in nominal gross domestic product. That has allowed banks to keep margins up.

The problems at NatWest and doubts about Barclays' strategy with Barclays de Zoete Wedd are likely to be confined to those two banks, on this optimistic view. The poor quality of securities trading and corporate finance profits will not be the same worry for the likes of HSBC, which is pursuing a more focused attack on investment banking, or Lloyds TSB, widely viewed as the sector's benchmark.

Meanwhile, there are plenty more efficiency gains to come as more labour is shed. Assuming the traditional banks can keep up with the shift towards electronic and telephone-based distribution, they should benefit from the lower cost bases enjoyed by the direct suppliers.

The counter-argument to this rosy view is based on past banking cycles and the distortions to bank ratings caused by this year's building society conversions. There is no question that bank shares have been pushed up ahead of the arrival of Halifax on to the market as index tracking and other institutions have scrambled over themselves to build up their weightings.

The normal institutional holding in a Footsie company is close to 80 per cent, yet all the Halifax shares were initially dished out to its savers and borrowers. It

will take several years for the big hitters to build a full weighting, which should underpin the shares.

But despite weakness in the past few days, banking share prices look worryingly vulnerable to signs that they are not able to sustain their impressive return on equity. Banks are facing criticism for their high margins and there are signs of pressure on returns. Meanwhile, bad debts are starting to creep up. All this is anecdotal as yet but, if past history is any judge, it is during good times such as these that banks sow the seeds of their own nemesis.

Sutcliffe finds the right chemistry

Sutcliffe Speakman's marriage to solvents distributor Samuel Banner at the end of 1995 did nothing for earnings last year, but still looks a wise move. Results for the year to March showed a fall in the combined group's headline earnings from 2.58p to 2.44p, largely due to a dramatic drop in chemicals prices which cost Sutcliffe around £400,000. Prices of certain esters and glycols plunged by around 50 per cent. With Banner on board, chemicals now represent over two fifths of total sales.

Including Banner for a full year, as against three months for 1996, flattered profits and turnover comparisons. Excluding a £650,000 restructuring charge and discontinued businesses, operating profits were 89 per cent up at £5.8m on turnover 90 per cent ahead at £71m.

Banner may have been a drag but, longer term, there is plenty of logic in the merger. Sutcliffe, whose shares hit an all-time low of 15p in February 1995 following a profits warning and a walk-out by senior management, has been struggling to sell its hi-tech, high margin carbon products which absorb poisonous vapours from chemical processing. Buying Banner, which dis-

tributes chemicals to blue chips like BASF and Du Pont, gives Sutcliffe a distribution network and turns the combined group into a one-stop source of solvents and solvent disposal packages. One potentially exciting machine is Sutcliffe's Bioreactor which uses bacteria to "eat" toxins. That is being marketed to chemicals customers, but pharmaceutical and printing industries are obvious customers.

Worries over power tussles between Sutcliffe and Banner directors were also allayed. Banner's Stuart Lloyd is running the show as chief executive and the last of the old guard went yesterday with the resignations of both David Martin, who was appointed Sutcliffe's chief executive just before the merger, and Adrian Fontes, Banner's old finance director.

House broker Charterhouse is forecasting 66m profits for the current year. Mr Lloyd says chemicals prices are more stable, which helped push the shares up 1p to 34p yesterday, and with European legislation driving the market for chemical clean-up equipment, a forward p/e ratio of 8 makes the shares look cheap.

Internet provider has huge potential

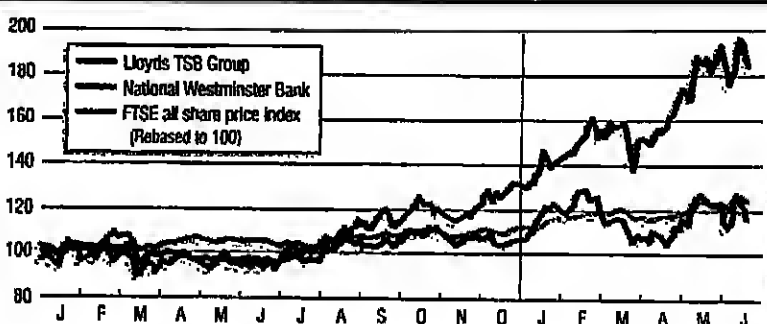
Internet Technology, chaired by Jan Murray, founder of the computer superstore group PC World, is one of a growing band of companies which provide access to the Internet. This rapidly expanding global computer network has captured the public imagination and it seems that any company associated with it attracts a high rating. But its development in the UK is still in its infancy. None of the Internet-related groups are making any money as yet and some, like Demon, have run into financial difficulties. That said, Internet Technology, which floated on AIM last year after the reverse takeover of a property shell company, looks more financially robust than most.

It is still making a loss, £1.2m in the last six months, but its expansion is gathering pace and it is now the third largest access provider in the UK. By selling the property portfolio, it has been able to fund a successful marketing campaign and keep its cash flow ticking over nicely. Subscriber numbers have risen from 11,000 to 26,000 in the last year and it is now adding customers at a rate of 700 a week. The recent acquisition of a smaller rival, Xara Networks, will also help it get a foothold in the lucrative market for corporate customers.

Of course there are risks. British Telecom has set up its own Internet access service which could squeeze smaller players and the Internet may not take off as most computer enthusiasts expect. But Internet Technology is well positioned to continue to grow rapidly. It should also make a tidy profit from its stakes in two unquoted hi-tech stocks, Xara and Redstone Networks, which are due to float shortly.

SCST, the broker, forecasts Internet Technology should make a loss of £560,000 this year. Then it should break into the black next year with profits of £1.5m, putting the shares - up 1p to 90p - on a prospective p/e ratio of 25. The shares, which have doubled in the last few months, are not cheap but Internet Technology's huge potential justifies its rating. Hold.

The Banking Sector: At a glance



Current year profits forecasts (£m)



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Threat of rise in interest rates adds to Footsie's woe

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

A stock market already weighed down by Budget and option worries had to contend with the daunting prospect of interest rates being forced higher next month. Footsie was at one time 54.9 points lower; it closed off 25.2 at 4,657.0.

The modest rally was due to the appearance of a few bargain hunters and a slightly firmer New York display than had seemed likely at one time. A retail sales surge in May, before the Halifax and Norwich Union loot became available, was the signal for higher interest rate fears to grip the market.

It is widely assumed that Labour's pre-election pledge to hold income tax will be honoured in Gordon Brown's first Budget. But with the retail bonanza, his tax standstill, runs the argument, will leave the allegedly independent Bank of England with no alternative but lift interest rates.

With institutions worrying about Mr Brown's treatment of their tax relief and unease over tomorrow's futures and options expiry the market remained an extremely hesitant place with few investors, big and small, prepared to chance

Blue chips were not the only shares in retreat. Second liners were marked lower and the FTSE SmallCap index suffered a 9.3 points fall to 2,270.5.

BSkyB was the major blue-chip casualty. The uncertainty about the departure of chief executive Sam Chisholm was compounded by indications the Independent Television Commission wanted BSkyB to unload its stake in British Digital Broadcasting. Bailing out of BDB would, whatever gloss BSkyB might put on it, be a major setback for the satellite broadcaster and its shares tumbled 45p to 521.5p, rough-



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ly in line with Lehman Brothers' fair value estimate. BG, after early unease, ended 6.5p higher at 219p as the Monopolies & Mergers Commission report was regarded as a "score draw" by the market. Indeed ABN Amro Hoare Govett, BG's stockbroker, lifted its dividend forecast to 5.8p (against 5p) and changed its stance to undervalued.

BTR illustrated the presence of bargain hunters. What has for long been the market's friendless conglomerate enjoyed the rare distinction of topping the blue-chip leader board with a 9.5p jump to 203.5p. Earlier this month, with seemingly not a buyer in

MARKET REPORT
REK PAIN
Market reporter of the year

sight, BTR bumped along at 184.5p with one still-to-be-explained trade going through at 160p.

Lasmo was another in form. The oil group rose 8p to 269p, helped it was thought by a New York investment presentation. Siebe, the engineer, put on a further 12.5p to 1,001p, reflecting the squeeze following its APV takeover. APV rose

Allied Domecq, the pubs and spirits group which could be a casualty of the Grand Metropolitan-Guinness-LVMH imbroglio, was at one time bumping along at a 407.5p low. In busy trading it ended little changed at 314.5p.

Burn Stewart, the Scotch whisky group thought to be in the sights of unquoted William Grant & Sons, shaded 1p to 62.5p.

to 174.5p. It disputes alleged claims by Novartis that the Swiss giant has won the battle to produce the best skin graft treatment. S&N is currently launching its version in the UK.

IES, the security system group, was the day's profit-warning victim. The shares plunged 43 per cent to 68.5p. It said it would be in the red in its first half-year and year's profits could fall short of ex-

The group produces hidden surveillance cameras for cash dispensers. The shares arrived at 292p last summer.

The heady advance of computer group **Micro Focus** came to an abrupt halt as Marcelo Gurmucio, chief executive, sold

74,500 shares at 1,853p, netting £900,000. He apparently needs the cash to pay his expenses for moving from Minneapolis to California. The shares fell 45p to 1,837.5p; they have climbed from 613p in August.

Bid target Albert Fisher, the food group, rose 3.5p to 46.75p as Mercury Asset Management lifted its stake to 5.3 per cent and estate agent John D Wood, which is in bid talks, gained 15p to 146p as rumours an offer was about to be announced went the rounds.

Body Shop International was again pestered by worries about its French operation which depressed last year's results. The shares fell 6.5p to 162.5p.

Rage Software continued to respond to its forecast of a return to profits and share buying by managing director Paul Finnegan with a 0.75p gain to 5.25p.

□ Shares of chemical group BTP should be due for a run, believes Martin Evans at stockbroker Sutherlands. He expects profits of £54m this year with £61.5m next. The shares, little changed at

288p, should "regain former investor confidence" on the back of fine chemicals growth and favourable conditions for adhesives and safety equipment.

□ **British Taxpayers Association**, traded on Ofex, jumped 10p to 21p. Through a chain of associates it provides a self assessment tax service. Earlier this year it attempted to raise £1m at 28p a share but had to settle for a £400,000 injection.

□ Display IT, an Ofex share, held at 550p. BT man Bill Murphy has joined the board. There is talk of a major development next week.



Alcoholic Beverages											
3M	100.00	0.00	100	Amgen	120.00	0.00	100	Boehringer	150.00	0.00	100
Bristol-Myers	180.00	0.00	100	Glaxo	200.00	0.00	100	Johnson & Johnson	220.00	0.00	100
Pfizer	250.00	0.00	100	Schering	280.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	300.00	0.00	100
Schering-Plough	320.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	340.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	360.00	0.00	100
Schering-Plough	380.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	400.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	420.00	0.00	100
Schering-Plough	440.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	460.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	480.00	0.00	100
Schering-Plough	500.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	520.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	540.00	0.00	100
Schering-Plough	560.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	580.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	600.00	0.00	100
Schering-Plough	620.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	640.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	660.00	0.00	100
Schering-Plough	680.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	700.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	720.00	0.00	100
Schering-Plough	740.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	760.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	780.00	0.00	100
Schering-Plough	800.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	820.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	840.00	0.00	100
Schering-Plough	860.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	880.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	900.00	0.00	100
Schering-Plough	920.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	940.00	0.00	100	Schering-Plough	960.00	0.00	100
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Banks, Merchant											
Bank of America	100.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	120.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	140.00	0.00	100
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Banks, Retail											
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Engineering											
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Bank of America	700.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	720.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	740.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	760.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	780.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	800.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	820.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	840.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	860.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	880.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	900.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	920.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	940.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	960.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	980.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	1000.00	0.00	100								
Gas Distribution											
Bank of America	100.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	120.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	140.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	160.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	180.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	200.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	220.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	240.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	260.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	280.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	300.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	320.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	340.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	360.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	380.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	400.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	420.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	440.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	460.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	480.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	500.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	520.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	540.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	560.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	580.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	600.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	620.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	640.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	660.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	680.00	0.00	100
Bank of America	700.00	0.00	100	Bank of America	720.00	0.00	100	Bank			

NatWest Markets offers graduates useful advice

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Stock	Set	Buy	Yld	Stock	Set	Buy	Yld
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		49.80	2.50			
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		50.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		51.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		52.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		53.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		54.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		55.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		56.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		57.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		58.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		59.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		60.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		61.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		62.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		63.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		64.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		65.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		66.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		67.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		68.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		69.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		70.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		71.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		72.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		73.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		74.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		75.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		76.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		77.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		78.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		79.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		80.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		81.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		82.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		83.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		84.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		85.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		86.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		87.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		88.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		89.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		90.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		91.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		92.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		93.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		94.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		95.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		96.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		97.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		98.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		99.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		100.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		101.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		102.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		103.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		104.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		105.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		106.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		107.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		108.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		109.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		110.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		111.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		112.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		113.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		114.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		115.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		116.80				
Chas. F. Woods	532.36		117.80				

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Lions learn Test fate by dawn post

Rugby Union
CHRIS HEWITT
reports from Cape Town

The mind games are dead and gone. Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, has abandoned his Chinese whispers approach in this Saturday's opening Test with South Africa in Cape Town and will instead reveal his line-up tomorrow, some 48 hours in advance of his initial timing. "The players know the team but, while there are some very disappointed people in the party, the mood is superb and there is no reason to delay," he said. Not that the Springboks were remotely impressed by all the cloak and dagger nonsense anyway. Carel du Plessis, their coach, was yesterday entirely dismissive of the Lions' naked attempt at psychological warfare: "The way they go about their selection is no concern of mine. I'm happy with the team I have, we're focused on the series ahead and we've analysed all the points and all the players. We're confident of adjusting to whatever combination the Lions throw at us."

Yesterday was a red letter day for 15 Lions, a half-way house for the six on the bench and a dead letter day for those 14 bystanders left outside in the freezing stuff. Cotton personally wrote to each player and Sam Peters, the party's administrative assistant, acted as postman at 7.45 in the morning, slipping the different notes under the players' doors. "We agreed during our week-long get-together in Surrey before the start of the tour that selection was a pretty harsh business if those picking the side simply read out the team in front of a gathering of the entire squad," said Cotton, who was not exactly noted for sparing emotions during his playing days. "I think this approach is far better as those left out know they can talk to me at any time to find out the whys and wherefores. We

wanted to make sure that those disappointed players had an hour to come to terms with that disappointment before they faced everyone else."

The Lions prepared in secret at Stellenbosch University, the cradle of South African rugby, and, irrespective of the mixed feelings among the squad, they trained with a vengeance for more than three hours. Only Eric Miller, the Irish No 8, failed to turn out - he was suffering from a flu bug yesterday - but Cotton said the 21-year-old was well on the road to recovery.

"There are one or two bumps and bruises and illnesses to sort out before we confirm the line-up in public," Cotton said. "This is Test week, there is no longer any escape and it is absolutely imperative that everyone who takes the field at Newlands is 100 per cent fit."

The tour hierarchy have already spoken to Saturday's referee, Colin Hawke of New Zealand, about law interpretation and they plan another meeting over the next 36 hours. "We've tried to operate within the boundaries applied by the South African referees since we've been here and we need to make sure that Colin is planning to follow similar lines," said Ian McGeechan, the Lions' coach.

"I don't foresee too many problems because most of the leading southern hemisphere officials have been involved in major Super 12 matches already this season. As long as we know what to expect in and around the tackle area, we'll be happy."

The Springboks are distinctly unhappy at the clause in the tour agreement that prevents them playing their old and new national anthems before Saturday's kick-off. "The rule has been made and we'll have to accept it, but it's important to us and we'll find somewhere to sing the anthems, even if it's in the dressing-room," said Gary Teichmann, the South African captain, who yesterday confirmed his recovery from hamstring trouble. Traditionally, the Lions play without an anthem.



Travelling man: Nigel Horton and the strength-building scrum machine which is touring South Africa with the Lions

Photograph: Allsport

Horton's mobile earthquake machine

The Lions need to make the ground move in South Africa.
Paul Stephens reports on the man behind the muscle

The Springboks have every reason to believe that their first encounter with the Lions' pack in the opening Test at Newlands on Saturday will induce a collosus of earthquake proportions.

They will do well to be cautious for the Lions' forwards have been put through a shattering experience by Nigel Horton and his travelling Richter scrummaging machine.

The Lions' management were never in doubt that the key to success in the three-Test series against South Africa would be to hold their own in what promises to be a ferocious clash between the opposing front rows. And, if there was any question as to the validity of that prognosis, it was surely put to rights in the first three matches of the tour when the Lions' forwards were given the sledgehammer treatment by provincial teams.

But help was at hand, just as it had been in the week the tourists spent in England prior to departure for South Africa. As part of the mutual determination of the manager, Fran Cotton, and the coach, Ian McGeechan, to see that the players wanted for nothing in the way of specialist advice and assistance on the Lions' first professional tour, they enlisted the support of Horton and his strength-sapping, two tonne machine that gives the pack their power.

It is no ordinary device, any more than in his day, Horton was a run-of-the-mill forward while at Moseley. Horton, capped 20 times for England, with hands like hams and a beguiling try-me-if-you-

dare smile, was a brilliant line-out jumper and a superb scrummager who has used his playing experience and the engineering skills of Paul Richter to build a heavyweight monster which stretches every forward to the limit, and can fight back if all eight look as if they are getting the better of it.

Six weeks before the tour began, Horton shipped four tonnes of equipment out to Durban, hired an eight-tonne truck and a six-metre trailer and, along with Irishman Des Byrne, planned a 4,000-mile road journey around South Africa to fit in with the Lions' schedule. Thus far, it has been a voyage of discovery as the Lions' pack have continued to improve.

"Measurement is so important," Horton said. "You must have feedback. By working on compressed air, the Richter converts everything into kilos. Not only can it quantify the shove of the whole scrum, it can identify a shortfall in an individual player's performance."

Cotton has no misgivings about the machine's effectiveness. "We had to come to terms with much stronger than anticipated South African scrummaging and it has been a great help in the way the forwards have adapted."

After a 50-scrum training session, Jason Leonard, dripping in perspiration, declared it the nearest thing to live scrummaging: "Nothing will simulate a real scrum. But this tells us

what pressure is coming back. It has improved our cohesiveness, and we are much more solid as a unit."

The Lions will certainly need to be much more resolute scrummagers against the Boks than they were in the early tour games or disaster beckons. After the Western Province match, Garry Page, their destructive loose-head prop, declared that the Lions' front row were "soft." That hurt the Lions more than any other criticism from opponents or media so far during their stay in South Africa.

If the Lions' forwards can make the Springboks squeal in the tight here on Saturday, Nigel Horton will be humming a happy tune throughout the 1,050-mile trek back to Durban. But he will still be ready to inflict more pain on his charges, on an unimaginable scale.

Tallis' let-off angers Wigan

Rugby League
DAVE HADFIELD

The Brisbane forward Gordon Tallis has escaped with a warning after his flurry of punches to the head of Terry O'Connor in the victory over Wigan this week.

Tallis, who risks being known as "Gordon Gloves" after his boxing exhibition in the second half of the game, has been sent a warning letter by the Australasian Super League judiciary. That is despite a plea for action from a Brisbane forensic pathologist, Dr. Jim Gwynne, who watched the game on television and warned that Tallis' attack could have proved fatal.

Tallis landed six punches to the head of O'Connor, who responded with one of his own before both were sent to the sin-bin. "We would have expected the authorities to take action," the Wigan coach, Eric Hughes, said. "I'm sure that would have been the case had a similar incident happened in England." Indeed, Hughes has only to recall the Challenge Cup semi-final in March, when a volley of punches earned Bradford's Brian McDermott a four-match ban.

Alan Hunter, who was feared to have broken his collar-bone in St Helens' defeat by Cromwell, just has bruising and could be fit to face Penrith this Sunday.

Sheffield Eagles, Britain's sole winners in the last round of World Club Championship, have a doubt about Martin Wood for the match tomorrow against Hunter Mariners.

Keighley will table a vote of no confidence in the League's board of directors at the Rugby League Council next Wednesday after complaining about having their monthly payment from News Corporation cut. Keighley say they have had £21,000 of their expected £50,000 withheld, but the board, which has rejected the complaint, says it is following procedure by distributing instalments on the basis of predicted finishing positions.

Manchester City have approached the League about establishing a Super League club at Maine Road.

The Salford forward Iao Bleasie appeals today against the life suspension imposed for assaulting a touch judge.

Wasps strengthen second row with Weedon

Wasps have signed the New Zealander Mark Weedon, a 6ft 5in, 17st lock forward who was an all-Black trialist in 1995 and 1996 and has also played Super 12 for Canterbury and North Harbour.

"We now have real strength in what has traditionally been one of our weaker areas," Nigel Melville, the champions' director of rugby, said.

Gregory Kacala yesterday completed his move to Cardiff on a three-year contract with the Welsh Cup holders promising they are still in the market for oew talent. Kacala, a 31-year-old Polish international back-row forward, helped Brive win last season's Heineken Cup.

Ambitious Third Division newcomers Worcester have

dropped their interest in Bath's unsettled England full-back Joo Callard. Worcester had offered Callard a job as player-coach but Bath were reluctant to release him from his contract.

Cliff Brittle was accused last night of employing bullying tactics in his bid to become the Rugby Football Union's oew management board chairman.

Brittle, the executive committee head, had promised "swift personnel changes" if he is elected at next month's annual general meeting, and the RFU president, John Richardson, responded yesterday by saying: "The threats issued by Brittle are obviously designed to bully people into supporting him, but it will not and should not work."

RAIN STARTS PLAY

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ROYAL ASCOT: A long-odds filly cashes in on a Guineas turn-around ahead of today's fascinating showpiece on Ladies' Day

Sharp form reversal rewards faith

Celeric holds the whip hand in Gold Cup

GREG WOOD

A little under 19 lengths separated Sleepytime, the winner, and Rebecca Sharp in the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket in May, but the Coronation Stakes here yesterday proved that a month and a half can be a long time on the turf. It was a reminder, too, that there is so much to a racing career, as Rebecca Sharp improved by 21 lengths on her Classic form, to beat Ocean Ridge and Sleepytime, the 5-6 favourite, to win the most valuable race of the day at 25-1.

At first sight, this was a disastrous result for form-book publishers, and a magnificent one for the pedlars of such alternative gambling mediums as bingo and the football pools. The lesson to be learned, though, is that the bare form, even of a race of such quality as the 1,000 Guineas, rarely tells the whole story. Fillies in particular take time to find their form as three-year-olds, and the Newmarket Classic can only identify which is the best of them at a very early stage of the campaign. On yesterday's evidence, Sleepytime's predominance has already run its course.

Nor was Rebecca Sharp's victory entirely unexpected, with at least one punter winning £10,000 for a £300 bet. Geoff Wragge, her trainer, has long considered the filly among the best in his yard.

"It's difficult to know what to do when you've won a maiden but finished third last in the 1,000 Guineas," Anthony Oppenheimer, her owner, said. "It requires a tremendous act of faith. Before this race, Geoff and I decided to have a bash and, if she didn't perform, it was time for handicaps at Carlisle. But it wasn't hard to give her another chance, and she'd been pleasing Geoff very much recently."

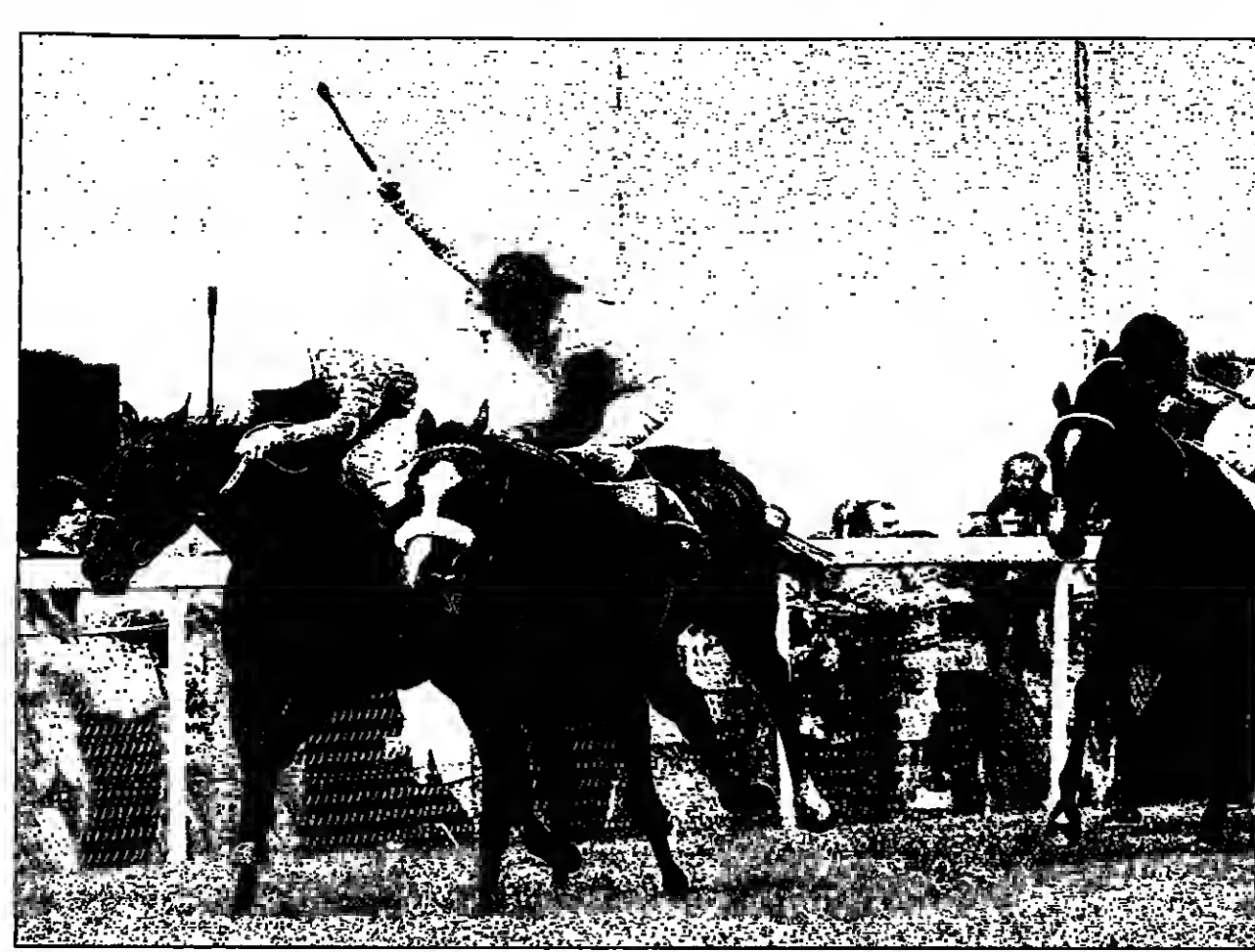
The racegoers of Carlisle will no doubt be disappointed, but Cumbria is now unlikely to feature in Rebecca's Sharp's schedule. The Painswick Stakes should be her next start, while a return to Group One company will now hold no fears.

If the result of the Coronation Stakes was a poor one for punters – and betis on Sleepytime included one of £30,000 to win £25,000 – some at least were rewarded in the Royal Hunt Cup, which can make or break a horse's week all by itself. Inevitably, several well-placed gambles went astray, including a run on Reg Akhurst's Targor, but the man who wins big handicaps the way Henry Cecil wins Classics still found his way to the winner's enclosure. Red Robbo, apparently Akhurst's second-string yesterday, was still backed from 33-1 down to 16-1, and Olivier Peslier's late thrust past Crown Court on the stand rail rewarded plenty of shrewd investments.

It was as well for Peslier that he finished in front, since he would otherwise have been found guilty of wilful disobedience. "I had agreed with Olivier that he should go over to the far side where the fast horses were," Akhurst said, "but fortunately he ignored me. I honestly feared Targor more today, and if you saw them both working, so would you."

French jockeys rarely make much impression on British backers, but Peslier is gathering a significant following, and is now the 9-4 second-favourite to meet the meeting as top rider. Frankie Dettori is the 5-4 favourite even though he failed to add to his total yesterday and will be suspended on Friday.

Michael Kiane, who has won the trophy for the last three years, is a 16-1 chance, but



Rebecca Sharp, a 25-1 outsider, is the Ascot heroine in yesterday's Coronation Stakes. Photograph: Robert Hallam

he did at least register his first win of the week, on Among Men in the Jersey Stakes. The son of Zilzal, who won the same race on the way to evoke better things, is improving swiftly, and might yet compensate Kiane, Michael Stoute and Michael Tabor, his owner, for their bitter disappointment with Entrepreneur in the Derby.

The speed with which anyone's fortunes can change was quickly apparent, though, as

Heeremendi, representing Tabor in the Queen Mary Stakes, started favourite but finished unplaced behind Nadwah, Peter Walwyn's first Royal Ascot winner since 1990.

"The race looked a bit like the M25 on a Friday night," Walwyn said, referring to the erratic course plotted by the aptly named Craze Mental inside the final furlong, which earned John Carroll a two-day suspension.

It could be that the low numbers will have an edge and BLUE GOBLIN and Nemoine Premier are favourite to be the winners. BLUE GOBLIN, ridden by top American jockey Gary Stevens, graduated from handicaps, but proved a cut above Caramora and Co in useful company at Newmarket last time and he looks a class act in the making. Nemoine Premier has been good company in France, but has been disappointing since his victory when he won the Group Three Prix de la Forêt de St. Germain last month. Royal Applause, winner of the County here in 1995, looks to be the best and won the Duke of York Stakes on the Newmarket last month when Farnham and Blue Dancer (two to be) were second and third. Lonsdale Prime won the Jersey Stakes here last year and is smart when he gets his break, while Burdon Of Proof and Monasass will have a following but may find their perches prohibitive.

GOLD CUP - 10-YEAR TALE

Year	Winner	Trainer	Jockey
1987	Blue Goblin	Mr. J. P. M. O'Brien	G. Stevens
1988	Blue Goblin	Mr. J. P. M. O'Brien	G. Stevens
1989	Blue Goblin	Mr. J. P. M. O'Brien	G. Stevens
1990	Blue Goblin	Mr. J. P. M. O'Brien	G. Stevens
1991	Blue Goblin	Mr. J. P. M. O'Brien	G. Stevens
1992	Blue Goblin	Mr. J. P. M. O'Brien	G. Stevens
1993	Blue Goblin	Mr. J. P. M. O'Brien	G. Stevens
1994	Blue Goblin	Mr. J. P. M. O'Brien	G. Stevens
1995	Blue Goblin	Mr. J. P. M. O'Brien	G. Stevens
1996	Blue Goblin	Mr. J. P. M. O'Brien	G. Stevens
1997	Blue Goblin	Mr. J. P. M. O'Brien	G. Stevens

ROYAL ASCOT

2.30 Crown Of Light
3.05 Arakawa Cay
3.45 Jynah

HYPERION
4.20 Monasass
4.55 Wades (nb)
5.30 HENLEY (nap)

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight course – stands side; round course – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None may be best.
■ Right-hand course with testing uphill finish.
■ Course is near junction of A25 and A330. Access from M3 (June 3) and M4 (June 6).
■ Racecourse is on the left of the road. Entry to the racecourse is on the right.
■ Admission: £10.00. Refreshments: £1.00. Car parking: £5.00.
■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH WINNERS: 20 winners from 139 runners since 1879. 18 winners, 15.8%; 13 winners, 9.3%; 12 winners, 8.6%; 11 winners, 7.9%; 10 winners, 7.2%; 9 winners, 6.5%; 8 winners, 5.8%; 7 winners, 5.1%; 6 winners, 4.4%; 5 winners, 3.7%; 4 winners, 3.0%; 3 winners, 2.3%; 2 winners, 1.6%; 1 winner, 0.9%.

3.45 GOLD CUP (GROUP 1) (CLASS A) £180,000
added 2m 4f Penalty Value £113,556

1. 11-11-11 CAMP DAVEN (5) (GB) (A) (V) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

4.55 CHESSMAN STAKES (Listed) (CLASS A) £35,000 added 2Y0
7f Penalty Value £24,056

1. 11-11-11 CAMP DAVEN (5) (GB) (A) (V) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

2.30 RIBBLEDALE STAKES (GROUP 2) (CLASS A)
£80,000 3Y0 Miles 1m 4f Pen Value £20,568

1. 11-11-11 CAMP DAVEN (5) (GB) (A) (V) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

4.20 CORK AND ORREY STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS A)
£50,000 6f Penalty Value £24,056

1. 11-11-11 CAMP DAVEN (5) (GB) (A) (V) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RR) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)

5.30 KING GEORGE V STAKES (HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £40,000
added 3Y0 7f 1m 4f Penalty Value £24,056

1. 11-11-11 CAMP DAVEN (5) (GB) (A) (V) (C) (

sport

When Montgomerie's lead slipped away he revealed again the petulance that may well prevent him from winning a major

A complaint put forward frequently by sports performers is that they are called to account across the airways and in newspapers by people who, in the main, have never experienced the trials of top class competition.

How can we know fully the frustration of missing crucial putts in a major championship, dodgy line calls, questionable decisions by referees and umpires? What do we know really about the disturbing effect of ill-mannered spectators, of putting up with snarling obscenities?

Of course, individual temperament comes into this, which reminds me that an opinion held here too long to be lightly dismissed is that our genes have a lot to answer for.

When Colin Montgomerie's lead slipped away during the second round of last week's US Open golf championship he revealed again the petulance that may well prevent him from winning a major.

Television pictures of Montgomerie calling out angrily to the galleries, fixing greenside audiences with a withering stare, remonstrating with cameramen and hurling his golf glove aside after one marginal error again suggested that if his game is in pretty good order there is room for an advance in temperament.

Pressure, you may agree, is going home to a cardboard box, housing benefit, fruitless attendance at the

job centre. You may also concur with the widespread view that sporting heroes who don't have to worry over where the next Porsche is coming from cannot expect much in the way of sympathy.

People who devote their lives to children's games are often so infatigable in their approach to the world that you steer clear of their company. I am reminded here of the famed golfer, a much travelled man of considerable means who was asked over dinner one night how he felt about the US decision to drop bombs on Libya. Clearly elsewhere at the time, he replied, "I think the 12th at Augusta National is just about the toughest par-three in the game."



KEN JONES

However, there is another side to all this. Sporting heroes are not required to light up a room with conversation and we have to ask ourselves how much they should be prepared to take from the audience. When Eric Cantona leaped into the

crowd at Selhurst Park to sort out an abusive Crystal Palace supporter a case was made for him in some quarters, but there was no earthly excuse for a violent outburst that almost put paid to his career in English football.

It isn't often that I can be accused of standing up for the overpaid and over-exposed but what is the limit of obligation to the good name of a game and its traditions? Can temperamental behaviour be improved upon? Would Montgomerie be as much of a great golfer if he suppressed his emotions? Ernie Els, who eventually finished a shot in front to win his second US Open, provided an interesting comparison. The South African looked ice cool

and played accordingly. But that is his nature.

It was in the nature of Nobby Stiles to rage against injustice. The toothless, cowering symbol of England's World Cup victory in 1966, his place was at risk until Alf Ramsey accepted that he had not deliberately fouled a Frenchman. In the very next match, the infamous quarter-final against Argentina that saw their captain, Rattin, sent off, Stiles was spat upon. Seeing this, Ramsey lowered his head. When Ramsey looked up, Stiles was yards from the incident wiping away the spittle. "It was one of the best moments I've known in football," England's manager said. With Wimbledon's annual fuff ball festival almost upon us, doubt-

less there will soon be fresh examples of irritating behaviour. Not quite in the McEnroe-Jimmy Connors class but enough to be going on with. If so the chances are that a lot of people will merely glance at the headlines, ask themselves what is unusual about that, and go on to read about prospects for the next football season.

As for Montgomerie, impulse and emotion are the burdens he has to live with. When he is pleased on a golf course he smiles; in a tantrum he scowls and acts as though the gods are conspiring against him. In his better moods Montgomerie can be charming and accommodating. But that's life and like the rest of us he's stuck with it.

Man with a reputation to live down

Mark Winters talks to Jeff Tarango, the man who walked out on Wimbledon

Jeff Tarango's best Wimbledon was also his worst. He had not gone beyond the first round in six attempts but in 1995 he attracted some attention by beating Andrei Medvedev on his way to the third round. Then he drew a great deal more by launching a remarkable verbal attack on the chair umpire, Bruno Rebeuh, during his match against Alexander Mironov which he ended by walking off court.

Defaulted for his actions, he was fined his prize-money and banned from the lawns of the All England Club for a year. Now he is back, older and, apparently, wiser. "In some ways it made me tougher. In some ways it made me understand the world better," he says.

He certainly understands the impact his startling exit made on the watching Wimbledon public and knows he will carry a certain reputation on to court with his rackets when he returns for this year's championships, which begin next Monday.

"I think it's a big deal for England, but for me it's Wimbledon, the tournament I love to play," he says. "It's another opportunity to do well." Which only makes his behaviour last time, when he was doing well, all the more difficult to understand. "It's my cross to bear and it's a strange one," he says of the incident.

The match itself against Mironov is incidental. The day became significant once Tarango had words with Rebeuh, accusing him of favouritism. From there things went from bad to worse. Tarango stalked off court and his French wife, Bénédicte, who had been watching the match, went after Rebeuh as he left and slapped him. She then followed her husband into the interview room where both pleaded his case to waiting journalists. Who remembers anything else about the match? What people remember is the fireworks and Tarango being defaulted for walking off court.

The Californian is disarmingly honest about his behaviour that day. "I was a bad boy and my mother told me I was a bad boy," he says. "I believe it was a mistake for me to walk off the court. It was a scary incident for me. The bad thing for me is that I have this stigma before my name." But then, as if by justification, he adds: "I really do feel the game misses John McEnroe and needed another bad boy."

A few people at the All England Club would beg to differ, as Tarango acknowledged with the quip: "I guess I have to win the tournament to be a member."

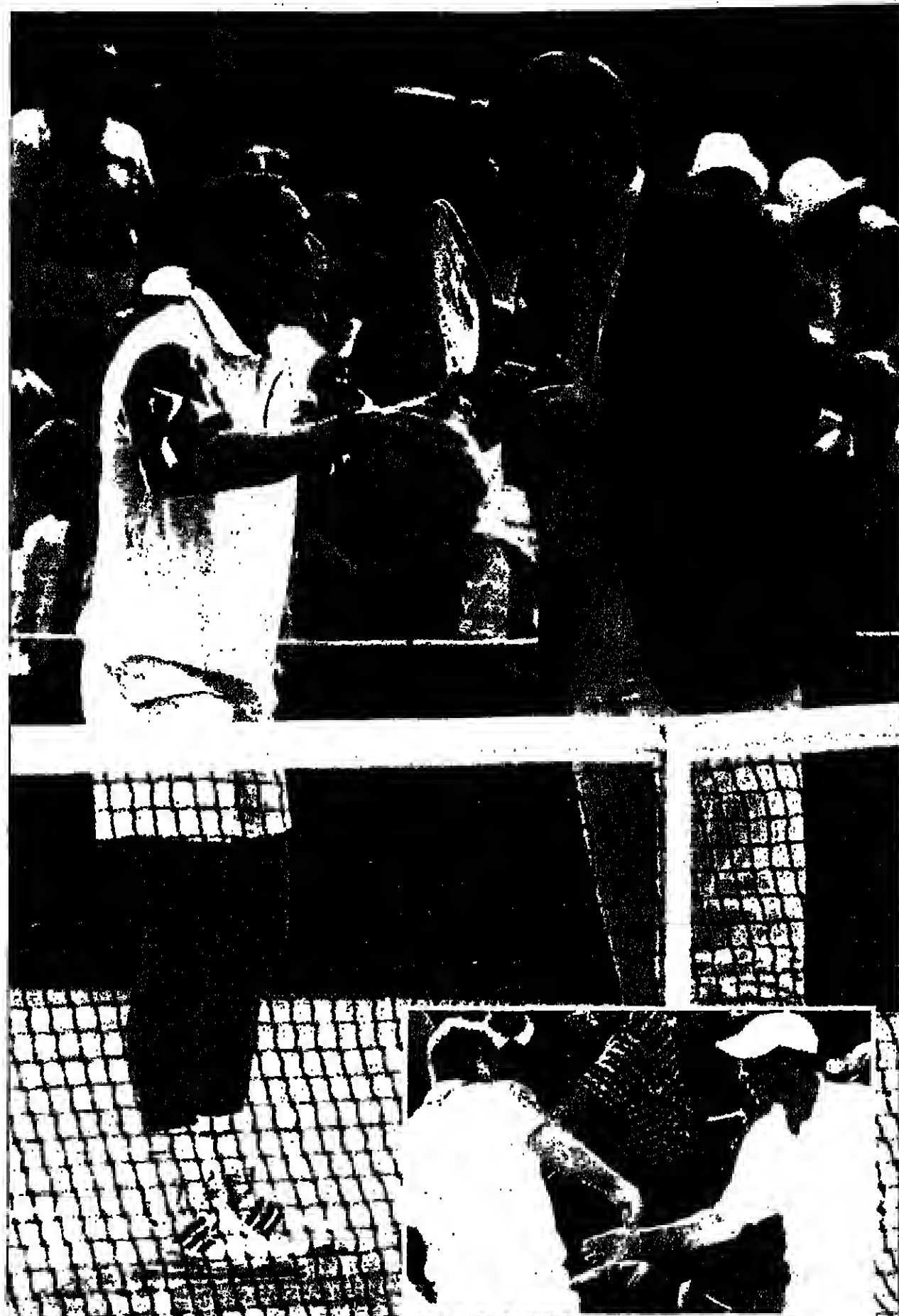
If Tarango is still paying for his behaviour in terms of reputation, he was made to pay financially straightaway. As well as having to hand back his £17,500 in prize-money, he says: "I had to pay tax on it before they asked me to pay it back as the fine, so I lost money."

He is anxious to prove that he can play the game, that reaching the third round at Wimbledon after those six first-round defeats was not a freak performance. "It will be a challenge going to Wimbledon," he says. "There were a few things said about how I had done in 1995. People didn't think I was that good."

Since turning professional in 1989, Tarango has earned more than £1m. His highest singles ranking is No 42, achieved in 1992. In doubles, he reached No 32 in the world last year. Tarango's script for Wimbledon reads: win in the first round, then take on a seed in the second or third and make a breakthrough. The draw handed him the chance to play out that scene as he will face a qualifier in his opening match with the seeded South African Wayne Ferreira likely to be his second-round opponent if he wins. "It's not going to be a big deal," he says of his first-round match. "It's going to be an anticlimax. There is going to be a crowd and they probably will be jeering. They will want me to do something, but I will not see anything but the ball. It will be kind of boring. I have been wasting too much time on this."

Tarango, often his own worst enemy, can be intense and quick to take offence, but he can also be charming. "Other players say I am either crazy or I have a lot of character," Tarango admits. "I was introduced to my wife as 'Crazy Man'. McEnroe was crazy. I have never been like that."

Then again... Only a couple of weeks ago at the French Open, Thomas Muster refused to shake hands after a 7-5, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1 victory over Tarango, who, during the second-round match, had mimicked the way Muster walks and complained about his grunting. "He's grunting when I'm hitting the ball."



Jeff Tarango's infamous incident at Wimbledon in 1995, when he argued with umpire Bruno Rebeuh, while (inset) Thomas Muster (left) refused to shake hands after their match in this year's French Open Photograph: PA/Reuters

He's grunting when he's hitting the ball. He's grunting when I'm tossing the ball in the air. I mean, he's grunting a lot," Tarango said after the match. "He has such a big ego that if you take a little of his limelight, he just doesn't like it."

That episode looked like Tarango being Tarango but he insists there was more to the story. He says Muster apologised to him later that day for not shaking hands. "He said he

was tired and was caught up in the match," Tarango said.

Whatever the facts, none of this on-court melodrama does Tarango much good, and he admits to regretting the Wimbledon incident. "It was a tragedy. It was not good for sports. It was not good for anyone," he said. "I think everyone has the perception I'm making money on this. I'm going to be 29 in October and I'm not. I do not have a racket or clothing contract."

Wimbledon - the tournament, not just the 1995 row - is part of him. "People do not re-

alise that I missed my high school graduation to come to Wimbledon and play the juniors," he says. "Playing there has always been a big deal to me. If you check the record, I have screwed around and done weird things at other tournaments, but I had never had a fine, never had a warning, at Wimbledon until 1995. There is no way I would want to hurt the tournament."

You didn't, Jeff. You hurt yourself.

Henman still searching for comfort zone

GUY HODGSON reports from Nottingham

It was at the Nottingham Open 12 months ago that Tim Henman discovered the form that swept him to Wimbledon's quarter-finals; this year he is groping around in the dark trying to locate it somewhere.

He beat Australia's Richard Fromberg 6-4, 6-7, 7-6 which pushes him into the last eight at the City of Nottingham Tennis Centre, and with seeds becoming something of a threatened species, he is now the most likely recipient of the £28,000 first prize on Saturday. The way he is playing, however, logic does not come into it.

Yesterday his form came and went like someone had turned off a tap. At a set up and a break up Henman was heading for a routine victory, but by the end he was fortunate to cling on for what was his first win over someone in the top 300 since his elbow operation in March.

"It's very, very frustrating," he said after a 2hr 13min trial of his temperament. "I'm having to huddle and fight just to hang in there." A player in the world's top 20 on his favourite surface should be finding things easier against someone ranked 81 places below him.

The point when the contest went out of his comfort zone arrived precisely at the same time as in his previous match against Andrew Richardson, the eighth game in the second set. Henman's judgement went awry as he let go two shots that bounced in and suddenly he had surrendered the advantage of a break and then the set

when he lost the tie-break 9-7. Worse followed when Henman weakly hit a forehand into the net to go 2-3 down in the deciding set and at 5-4 Fromberg, who delivered 20 aces, was serving for the match. Fortunately Henman broke when he had to and reached the quarter-final by winning the tie-break 7-4.

"The thing to take from that is that I kept going," he said. "You create your own luck and hopefully that will give me the chance to kick-start an improvement. I've got another match now and that's important."

Jim Courier would endorse that. It is only four years since the American was runner-up at Wimbledon and at 26 he is hardly past his physical prime. Yet, thanks to injury and a slump, he arrived at Nottingham 28th in the world and will have not have enhanced that much after going down 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 to Australia's Jason Stoltenberg.

The day before Courier, a confirmed back-court player with four Grand Slam titles to his name, was saying he was becoming accustomed to the pace of grass although he gave a good impression of losing it completely as Stoltenberg took 12 out of the last 16 games.

That accounted for the sixth seed and the fifth reigning champion, Jan Siemerink, followed down 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 to South Africa's Grant Stafford.

This left only Henman and Alex O'Brien as the surviving seeds and as the former is as inconsistent as the wind and the latter lost to the 19-year-old Briton, Martin Lee last week at Queen's, neither is copper bottomed to reach the final.

Cash stays alive

Pat Cash, the 1987 Wimbledon champion, used all his grass-court experience to pull himself back from the brink of defeat at the qualifying event at Roehampton yesterday.

Cash, who was 32 last month, beat the American Steve Campbell but was in trouble when he trailed 3-5 in the final set. The Australian eventually wrapped up a hard-earned 4-6, 6-2, 11-9 victory after a marathon contest which had kept the crowd enthralled for two hours and 20 minutes.

Miles MacLagan, last season's British No 5, played one of his best matches when he defeated the French seed Frederic Fontang 7-6, 6-2. MacLagan is now the only survivor in the event from 10 British players.

Tony Pickard, the former British Davis Cup captain, helped spur 19-year-old Amanda Janes to victory in the open-

ing round of the women's singles. Janes, the tall, agile daughter of the former Wimbledon finalist Christine Truman, overcame Lilia Osterloh of the United States 6-2, 6-2, needing five match points in the eighth game of the second set as her concentration began to waver. It was an encouraging win for Janes, ranked 466 in the world against a stylish but often erratic opponent ranked 284 places above her.

Pickard, who had travelled down from his Nottinghamshire home, revealed afterwards that he had been asked by Janes' mother to advise her daughter. "At this stage I like what I see," he said.

Janes' win was one of three for British players in the women's event and followed victories for Louise Latimer, the reigning junior champion, and Karen Cross.



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
BREAK POINT
AND BREAKING POINT.

Kellogg's
Sustain

GO THE DISTANCE



GO THE DISTANCE

كلنا من الأصيل



A century of misfortune
Adam Szreter on England's abysmal
Test record at Lord's, page 31

sport

Return of the bad boy
Jeff Tarango is back to court
Wimbledon's approval, page 30

England following Atherton into uncharted territory

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE

It is 10 years since the streetwise ways in the Lancashire dressing-room dished the letters FEC, meaning Future England Captain, over Michael Atherton's cricket coffin. But if that jape began as a dig at the slight and studious fellow who had appeared in their midst, it has ended up as prophecy on a grand scale, and this morning the whole of Lord's will rise as Atherton overcomes Peter May's record and leads his country for a record 42nd time.

With typical bluntness, he

feels he will not be able to give the matter more than a passing thought. After all, it is England's last chance to beat Australia at Lord's this century: 100 years that has yielded just a single victory against the old enemy, in 1954.

"I'll be too busy setting the field or working out where I'm going to get my runs to bask in the achievement," said Atherton yesterday as England prepared for the second Test against Australia.

Captaincy is all about decision-making and by the time Atherton ponders the merits of batting or bowling, he will have already decided whether the

cracked pitch will have warranted playing the extra spinner, Philip Tufnell. My guess is that it will not and that England will be best served by playing Devon Malcolm and batting first, should they win the toss.

The pitch is firm and has recently been reseeded, but substantial cracking at this stage of proceedings will mean larger variations in bounce as the match goes on. It is also a little damp, which may tempt Atherton into bowling first, a temptation that should be avoided unless a poor long range forecast is taken at face value - which Atherton assures it will not be.

After Edgbaston, nothing would demoralise the Aussies more than coming up against an unchanged team being cheered on by an expectant Lord's crowd. England cannot bank on the same kind of boisterous support as they had in Birmingham, but public optimism is such that once the champagne and smoked salmon sandwiches have been downed, it would not be surprising if 20,000 patriotic windpipes were to rise to the occasion.

Sensing an Australian fight-back Atherton is keen for as much vocal support as possible, but draws the line at some of the boorish chanting and booing

that was aimed at Australia in the first Test. "The crowd lifted us at Edgbaston, especially on that first morning. The lads felt that and appreciated it."

But while surging confidence is a good thing, there is still a lot of unplayed cricket in this series. Australia are the most resilient side around and, with Paul Reffel now installed, a stronger side than the one we saw a fortnight ago. Unlike Atherton, Mark Taylor is not used to coming from behind, and he will have made sure his team have gone back to basics by hardening their outlook and reining in their extravagances. Atherton, on the other hand,

finds himself in the unusual position of leading an Ashes series. As he moves into seventh place in the pantheon of Test captains, he is the only one in the top eight who has lost more Tests (11) than he has won (13).

But while failure may provide a justifiable cause for being sacked, it probably explains Atherton's longevity. Captaining England is one of the toughest jobs in sport, and one made virtually intolerable when your team loses more than they win.

Yet it has been Atherton's incredible ability to withstand the pressure of defeat, and keep his dignity intact that has kept him his job. But while most

captains resign when the job gets on top of them, Atherton, knowing that alternatives were both few and futile, has simply dared others to sack him.

Until now, it is a call my bluff that he has not played nearly so well on the field. But with a devoted team around him, currently playing urgent and sensible cricket, that may all be about to change. After all, some people are just slow learners who take a while to come to terms with the fatalism of the job.

In a way his biggest challenge may be about to start. With a 1-0 lead, public expectation is as high as it has ever been and there is a danger he may be-

come over-cautious, nursing England's advantage as if it were an osprey egg.

He reckons not and claims that the "processes which you go about getting a good result are the same whether you are one up or one down". Let us hope he is right and that the weather stays fair long enough for him to be proved so.

ENGLAND (from): M A Atherton (capt), M A Baker, A J Stewart (wk), N Hussain, G P Thorpe, J P Crawley, M A Edmonds, R D S Croft, D Gough, A R Caddick, D E Malcolm, P C R Turner, AUSTRALIA: M A Taylor (capt), M T G Elliott, G S Blewett, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, M G Bouslog, J A Healy (wk), S K Warne, P R Reifel, M S Marnold, G D McGrath, UNPLAYED: D R Shepherd (England) and S Venkataraghavan (India), Third umpire: D J Constant, Match referee: R S Madugalle (Sri Lanka).

Majoli miffed after being marginalised

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Eastbourne

There was a hit of a to-do at the Direct Line Championships yesterday here. One of the interviewees requested that she be allowed to ask a question first.

"Who won the French Open?"

"A girl from Zagreb called Iva," promptly came the answer from the man from L'Equipe, Andre-Jacques Dericx.

"Oh, yes, and what is her other name?"

"Majoli," replied Andre-Jacques, smiling.

"Oh, yes," said Iva Majoli, "perhaps you could tell that to the WTA Tour and the tournament director, so maybe they will have a bit more respect for me, the French Open champion, and put me on the Centre Court rather than Court 10 or 15."

It was Court No 2, actually, but not even the intrepid Andre-Jacques had the heart to correct the miffed Majoli.

"Even if my dog had won the French Open, he would deserve to be on the Centre Court," the 19-year-old Croat said.

It was one of those hell-bath-no-fury days in women's tennis.

Nathalie Tauziat, who edged out the 17-year-old Venus Williams, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, received a warning for being coached from the stands. One game later, the Frenchwoman made a rude gesture with an arm. "I did it because I was in a rage," Tauziat

at, the 1995 champion, said.

Majoli, the No 3 seed, appeared to be more upset about the perceived snub than about losing her opening match against Natasha Zvereva, 6-2, 7-5.

The Centre Court had been reserved for singles involving Jana Novotna, the No 2 seed, who defeated Yayuk Basuki, 7-5, 6-4, the match between Tauziat and Williams, and Monica Seles, the top seed, who beat Naoko Sawamatsu, 6-2, 7-5.

George Hendon, the tournament director, explained that he

Thomas Muster has withdrawn from Wimbledon with a hip injury. Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman takes the Austrian No 6 seed's place in the draw and faces Chris Wilkinson in the first round. Jennifer Capriati has also withdrawn, with an injury to her right leg. Her place will be taken by a qualifier.

had been advised on the order of play by the referee and the WTA director. "What we had here was an abundance of top players," Hendon said. "We played the No 1 and No 2 seeds on the Centre Court, and took into account that the public were fascinated by Venus Williams."

"I would have been guilty of letting 5,000 people in the grounds and putting her on a court with room for 500 to 600 spectators. So on Court No 2 we played Arantxa [Sanchez Vicario, the No 4 seed] and Iva. I agreed with the advice I got."

Majoli was not impressed. Having thrashed Martina

Hingis, the world No 1, in Paris and then spent a couple of days being fêted in Croatia, she had anticipated make a rather grander entrance in England.

"There is a big difference between Court 2 and Centre Court," she said, "and I thought I deserved to be on the Centre Court," she said, before preparing to leave for London to complete her preparation for Wimbledon.

Majoli has never won a match on the lawns of the All England Club. "This year I have a different attitude going into the first round at Wimbledon," she said. "Nick Bollettieri [her coach] is coming over to help me. I'm just going to concentrate on the first round. It's very important for me to win."

The spectacular Venus Williams also hopes to make an impact in SW19, along with paying a visit to the Tower of London.

Tauziat looked as if she would like the Tower to revert to its original purpose after the umpire reprimanded her seconds after she had broken Williams back to 4-4 in the final set.

She did not deny that she had been coached by Regis de Camareri, who was seated in a stand behind one of the baselines, arguing that she was not being coached at the time of the warning.

Later, when interviewed in French, Tauziat said, "All coaches coach. When Mrs Hingis sits beside the court and talks to her daughter, nobody gives her a warning or anything."



The American Venus Williams heads for defeat against Nathalie Tauziat, of France, at Eastbourne yesterday

Photograph: Allsport

Gray pencils Yorke into his Everton plans

Football

ALAN NIXON

Andy Gray, Everton's manager-in-waiting, has put the Aston Villa striker Dwight Yorke at the top of his shopping list. The Sky pundit worked with Yorke when he was Villa's assistant manager.

Everton are on the verge of naming Gray as manager, although there is still the question of his backroom staff. Gray's preferred line-up is to have Richard Money, currently coaching with Manchester City, team up with Colin Harvey, another former Everton manager, who rejoined the club yesterday as director of youth coaching.

Howard Kendall, the Sheffield United manager, was originally proposed as general manager by Johnson, but Gray will reserve the right to appoint his own men.

Blackburn Rovers are trying to sign Martin Dahlin. Their manager, Roy Hodgson, worked with the 24-year-old Swedish

striker in his Malmö days. Hodgson has had a boost, with the French right-back Patrick Valery agreeing to join in a fortnight when his contract with Bastia runs out.

The England physiotherapist, Alan Smith, is to take a leading role with Blackburn by heading the club's medical department. His involvement with the national squad will not be affected.

Peter Beardsley has rejected a move to Bolton. The former England international had been made an offer by the Wanderers manager, Colin Todd, but has chosen to stay with Newcastle.

Another player to spurn Todd yesterday was his right-winger Scott Green, who agreed a move to Tranmere in a £500,000 deal.

Wolves veteran Andy Thompson also joined Tranmere yesterday, on a three-year contract.

Manchester United officially withdrew their £5m bid for Bayern Munich's Markus Babbel yesterday as the centre-back accused them of using him as a bargain-

ing tool. "They were using me as a decoy in order to be able to negotiate harder with another player," he said.

Rangers have signed the 26-year-old Perugia striker Marco Negri on a four-year contract following a £3.7m move. Another of their potential foreign recruits, the Dutch goalkeeper Oscar Moens, may decide to join Real Madrid instead, though.

The 23-year-old AZ Alkmaar player returned home yesterday after two days of talks at Ibrox with his future still unresolved.

David Bellotti, Brighton's chief executive for the last three and a half years, is to leave the club as part of the new ownership agreement announced by the Football Association in April.

His departure was a clause of the deal which gives club chairman Dick Knight's consortium the same 49.5 per cent shareholding as former co-owners Bill Archer and Greg Stanley.

England youth in luck, page 28

Inquiry into Henry collapse

Boxing

The British Boxing Board of Control is to hold an inquiry into Chris Henry's fight at Chesham on Tuesday night. It left the Tottenham boxer requiring an emergency operation to remove a blood clot.

The inquiry will be staged by the board's Southern Area Council, and will be attended by Henry's manager, Jess Harding, and his promoter Frank Maloney. It is likely to take place in the first week of next month.

The board's strict medical procedures appeared to be in order after Henry, 28, had been stopped in the 10th round of his Southern Area title defence against Havering's Dominic Negus. But the board will still examine his handling of events after an exhausted Henry had collapsed and was rushed to Oldchurch Hospital, about 20 minutes away in Romford. Henry remains in a critical but stable condition in intensive care.

The board's secretary, John Morris, said: "When we have an injury in the ring, the doctors

and ourselves will take a look at what we do. Henry was MRI-scanned within the limits before his previous Southern Area title fight last February. He was properly medically. He was fit."

The board has invited the Minister for Sport, Tony Banks, to attend Naseem Hamed's International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Organisation featherweight title defence at Wembley Arena on 19 July.

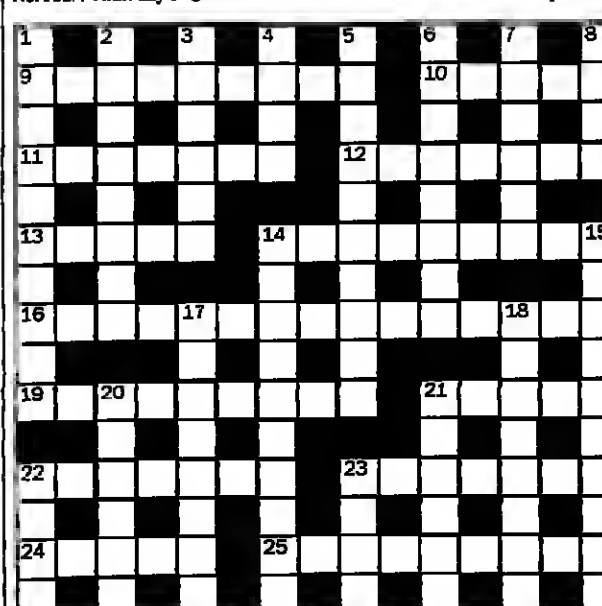
Morris and the board's chairman, Leonard "Nipper" Read, want the minister to have a close-up of their fight night operation.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3329, Thursday 19 June

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



ACROSS

- 9 Drink (fruit) brought back in pot (9)
- 10 Open decapitated fish (5)
- 11 Flourishing leaves round North enthal (7)
- 12 Fasteners reached round legs, huddled (7)
- 13 Merry fellow's missed departure (5)
- 14 Being suited to an action will prove effective (9)
- 16 A case of wrongful arrest? (15)
- 19 Speculated? Greek is insolvent, apparently (9)
- 21 African worker in British Union (5)
- 22 Herb's audible wack-crack is nonsense (7)

DOWN

- 1 With which to control beetles, etc. and maybe dispel with time? (5,5)
- 2 Signs of the times in Shanghai (8)
- 3 Note inclination to withdraw (6)
- 4 Fish, dead one (4)
- 5 Disconnected, like certain houses? (10)
- 6 Clear up? Little chap's taken in good and proper (8)
- 7 French sauciness cut the ice (6)

8

- End of Protestant Reformer, as indicated (4)
- An essential for Foreign Exchanges... (6,4)
- ... worried after pound weakened (10)
- Radio left with expert (8)
- Pope's name? That's simple (8)
- Like an Arab? A German without question (6)
- Army egghead (writer) turned up, concealing rank (6)
- Problem over an unknown girl (4)
- Crosses river on stones, initially (4)

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